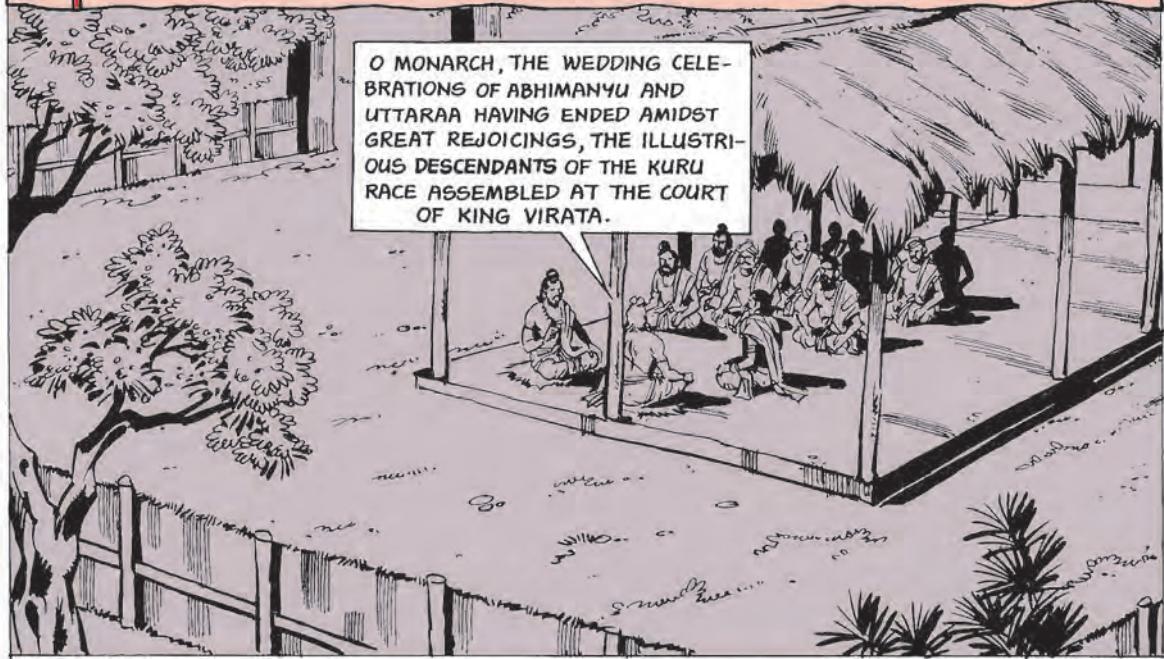
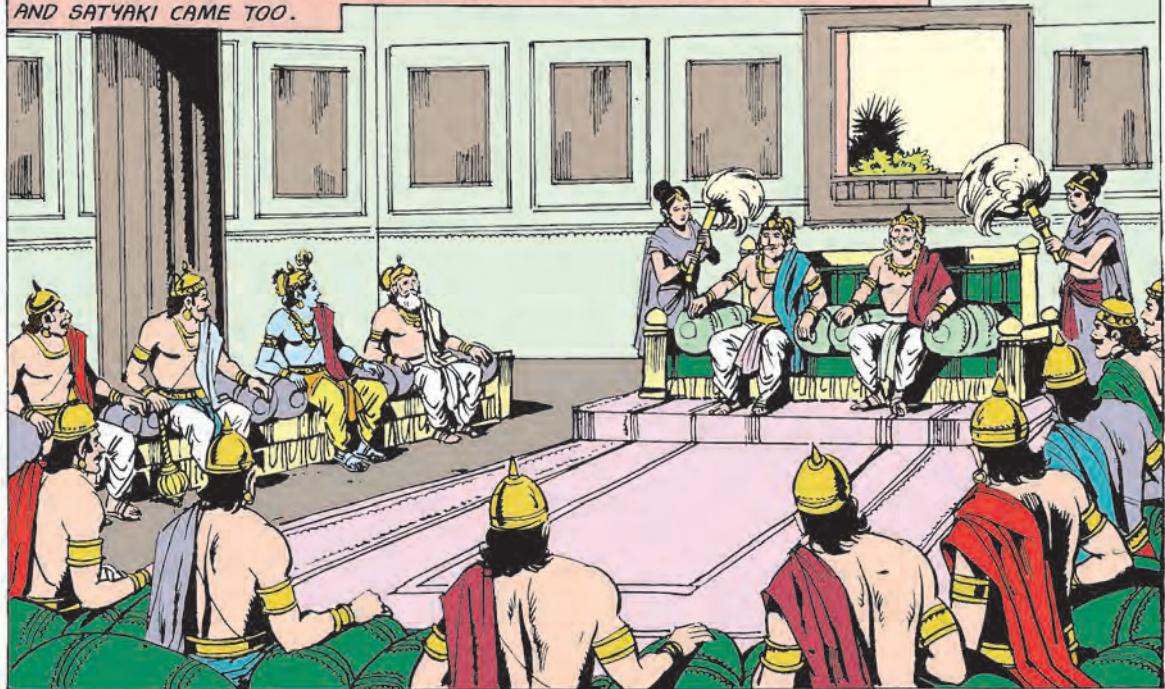


Mahabharata-27

SANJAYA'S MISSION

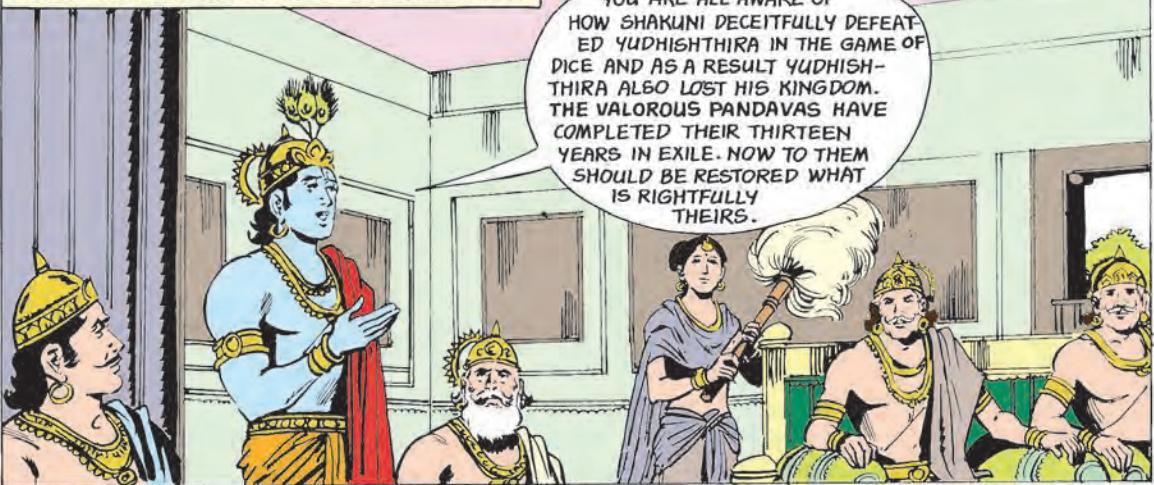


"THE ASSEMBLY AMONG OTHERS, CONSISTED OF THE FIVE GREAT PANDAVAS. VIRATA AND DRUPADA OCCUPIED SEATS OF HONOUR. THE REVERED KRISHNA AND BALARAMA CAME ALONG WITH THEIR FATHER. AND THE SONS OF DRAUPADI AND SATYAKI CAME TOO.



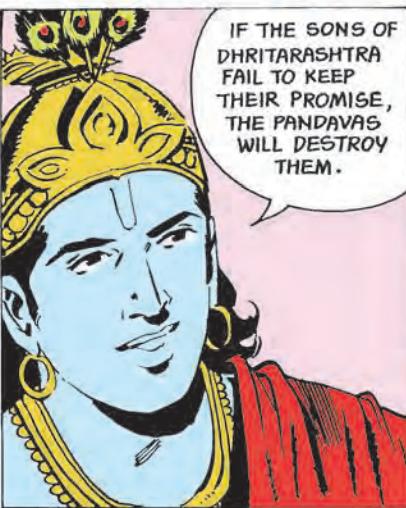
"FIRST KRISHNA ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY.

YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF HOW SHAKUNI DECEITFULLY DEFEATED YUDHISHTHIRA IN THE GAME OF DICE AND AS A RESULT YUDHISHTHIRA ALSO LOST HIS KINGDOM. THE VALOROUS PANDAVAS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR THIRTEEN YEARS IN EXILE. NOW TO THEM SHOULD BE RESTORED WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS.



IF THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA FAIL TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE, THE PANDAVAS WILL DESTROY THEM.

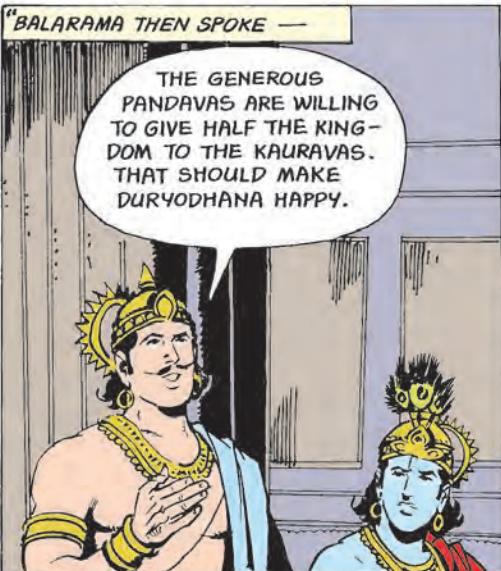
I SUGGEST WE SEND A WISE AND VIRTUOUS MAN AS OUR AMBASSADOR TO PERSUADE DURYODHANA TO GIVE HALF HIS KINGDOM TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

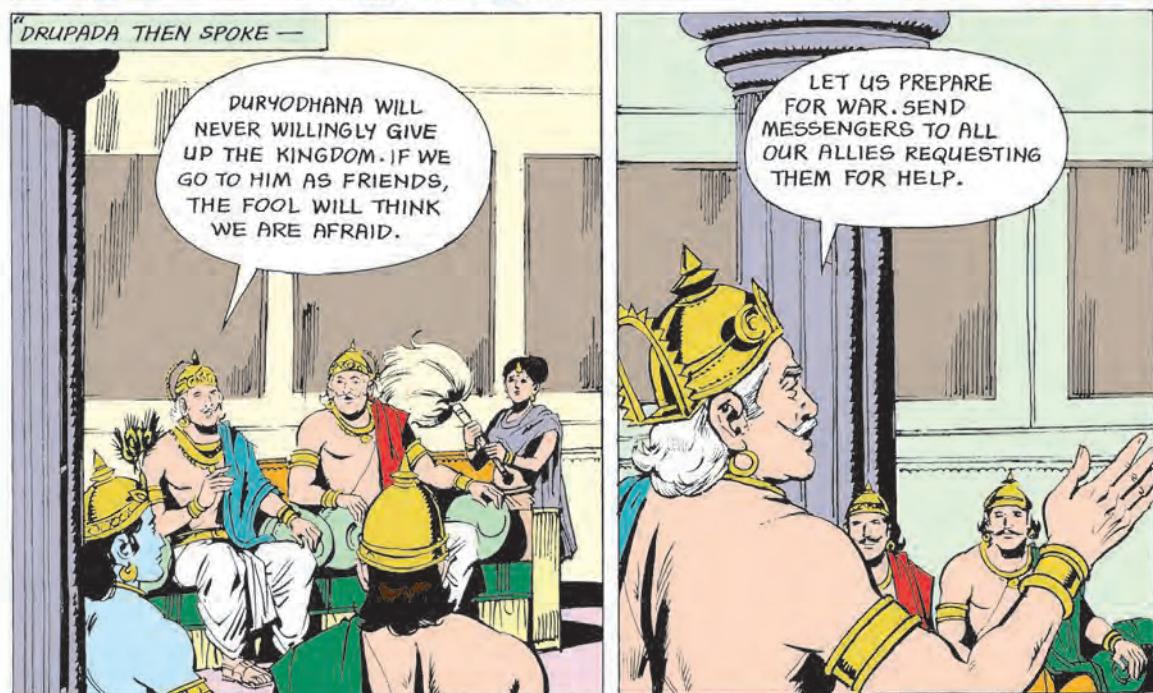
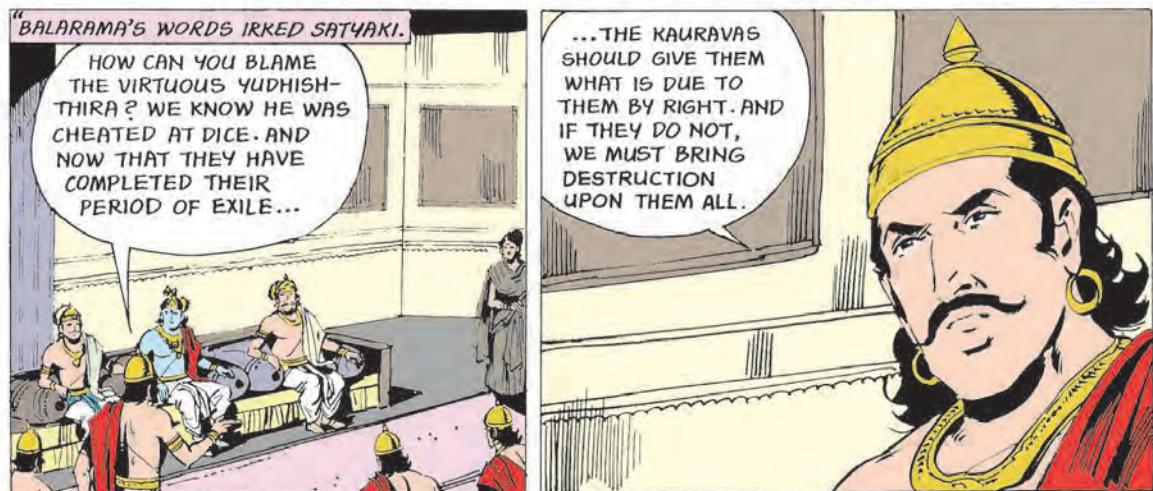


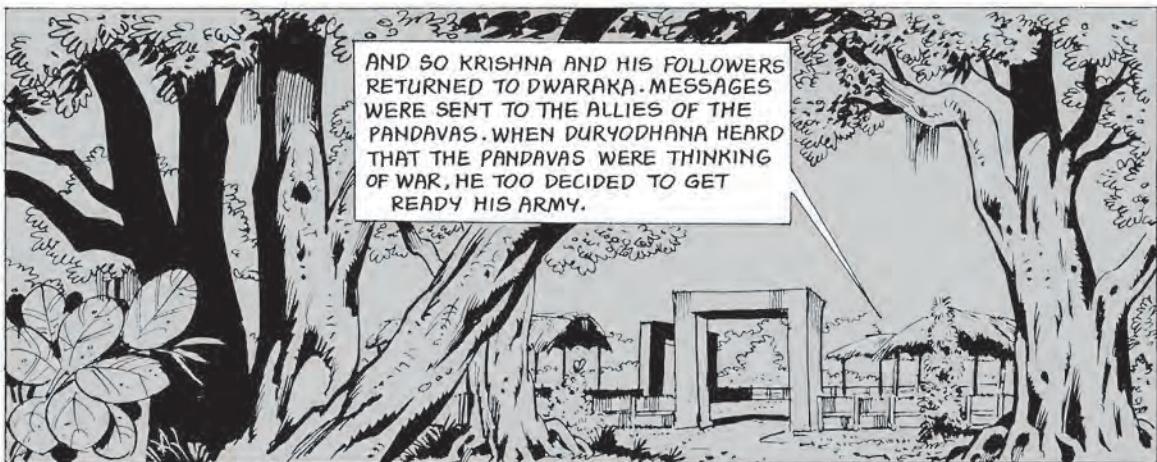
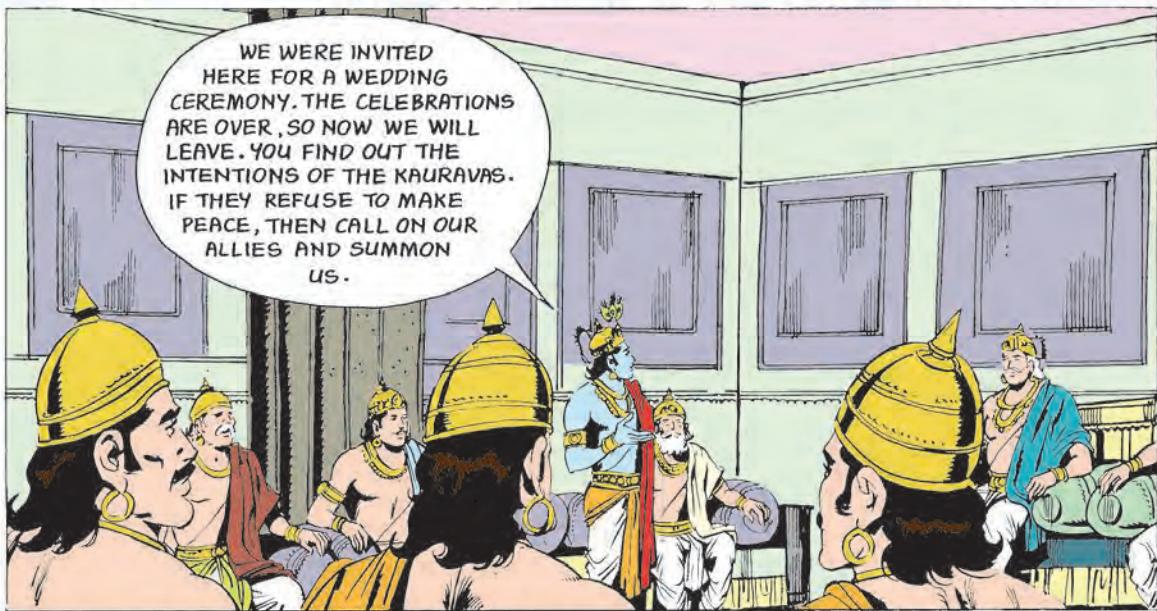
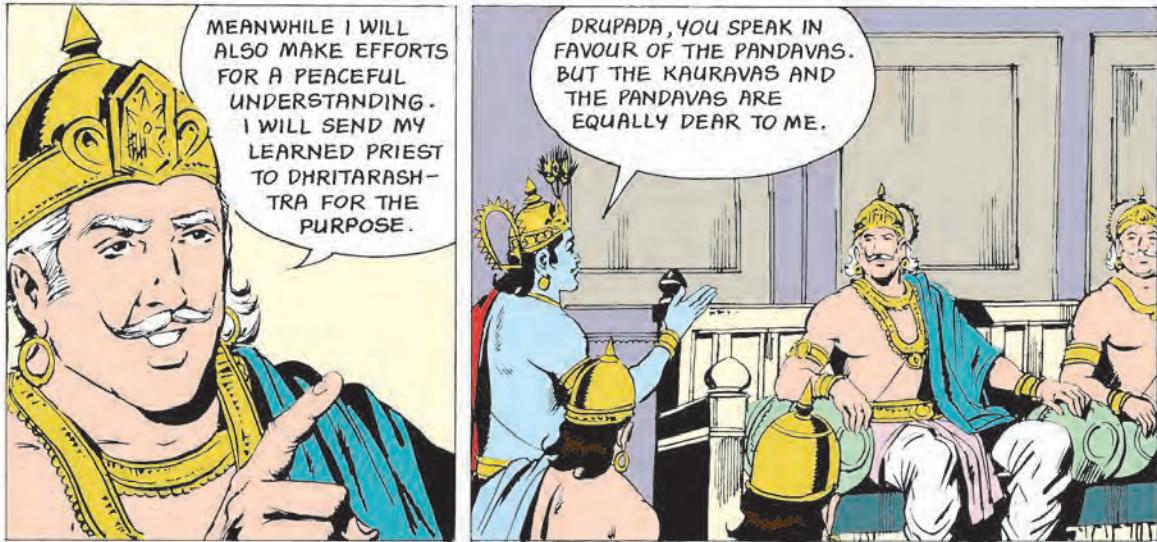
"BALARAMA THEN SPOKE —

THE GENEROUS PANDAVAS ARE WILLING TO GIVE HALF THE KINGDOM TO THE KAURAVAS. THAT SHOULD MAKE DURYODHANA HAPPY.

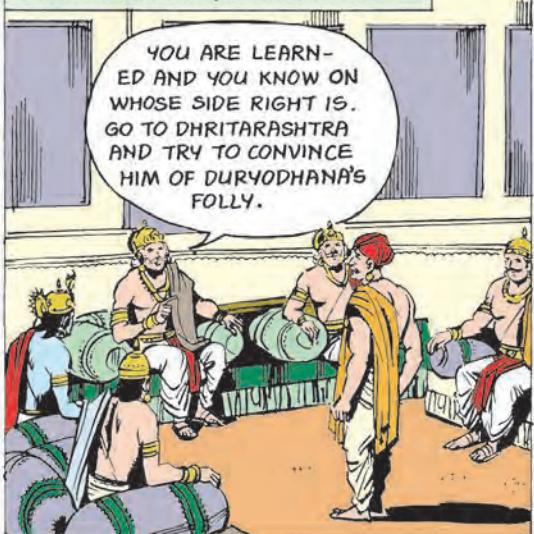
SO LET SOME EMISSARY GO TO HIM AND CONVEY YUDHISHTHIRA'S DECISION. BUT DURYODHANA SHOULD NOT BE PROVOKED. AFTER ALL YUDHISHTHIRA IS ALSO TO BLAME...







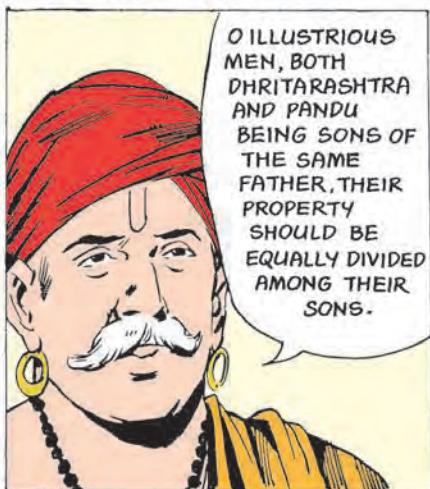
"DRUPADA SUMMONED HIS PRIEST—



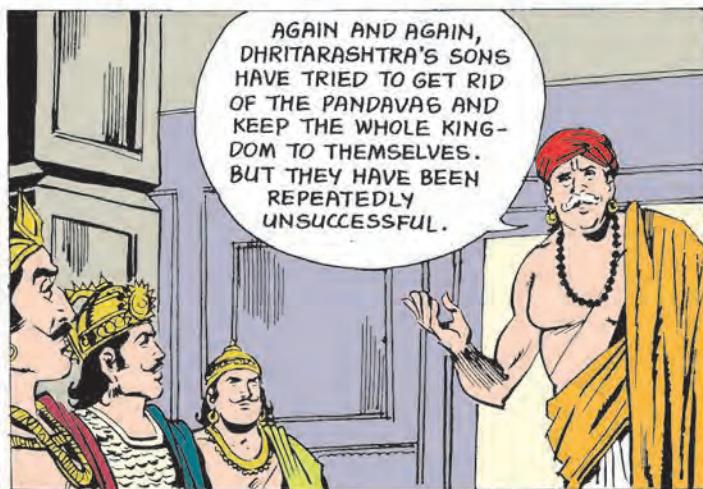
"AND SO, ON REACHING HASTINAPURA, DRUPADA'S PRIEST APPROACHED THE KAURAVA ELDERS.



O ILLUSTRIOUS MEN, BOTH DHRITARASHTRA AND PANDU BEING SONS OF THE SAME FATHER, THEIR PROPERTY SHOULD BE EQUALLY DIVIDED AMONG THEIR SONS.

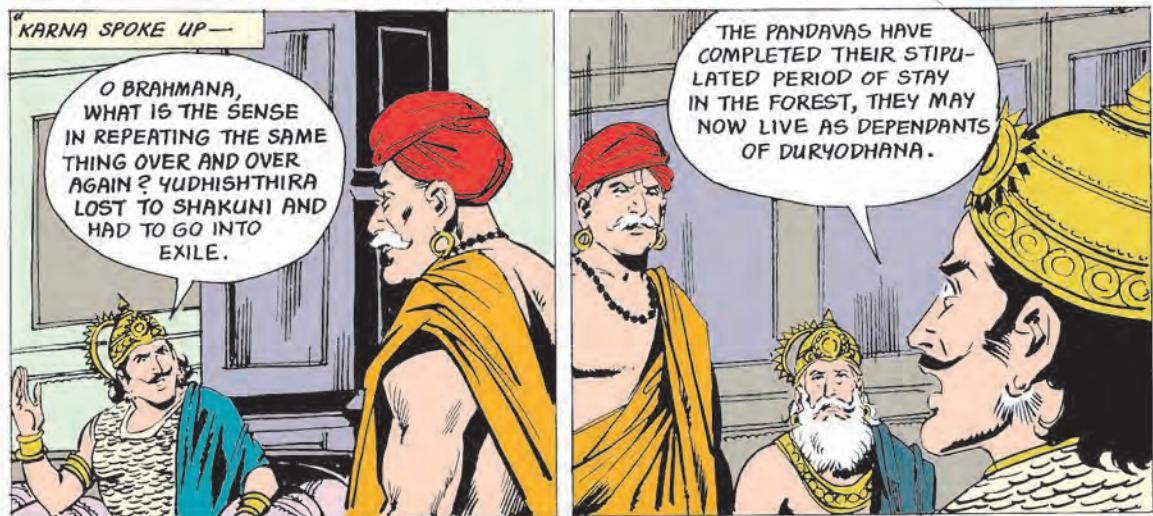
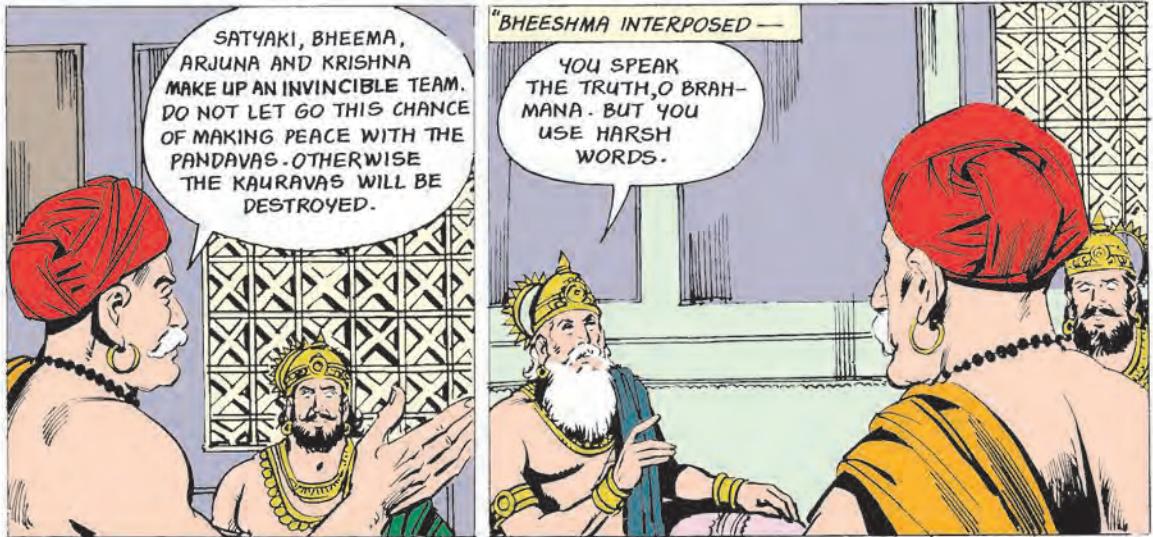


AGAIN AND AGAIN, DHRITARASHTRA'S SONS HAVE TRIED TO GET RID OF THE PANDAVAS AND KEEP THE WHOLE KINGDOM TO THEMSELVES. BUT THEY HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY UNSUCCESSFUL.

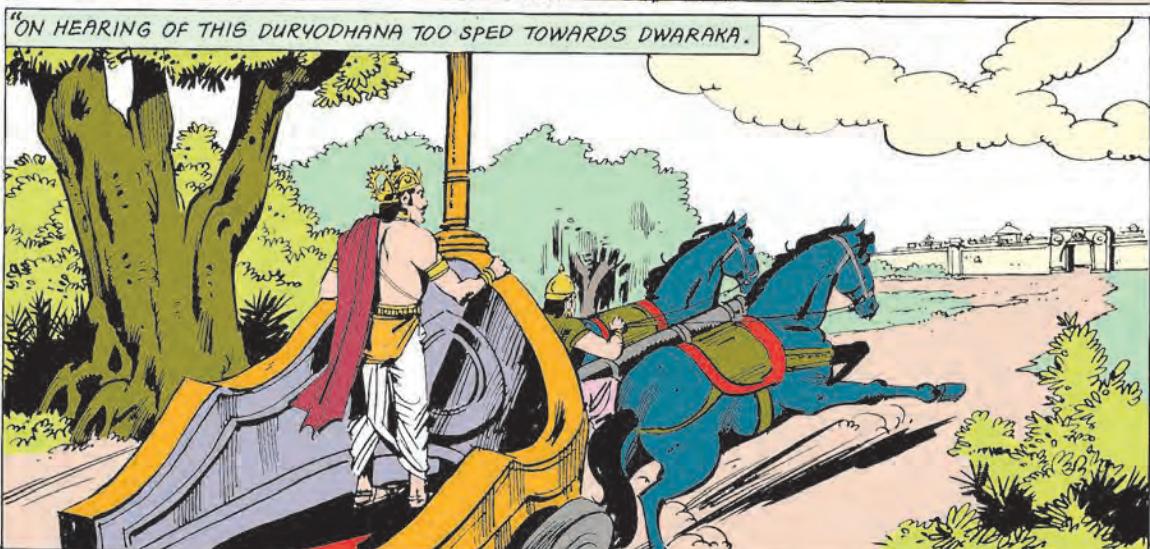
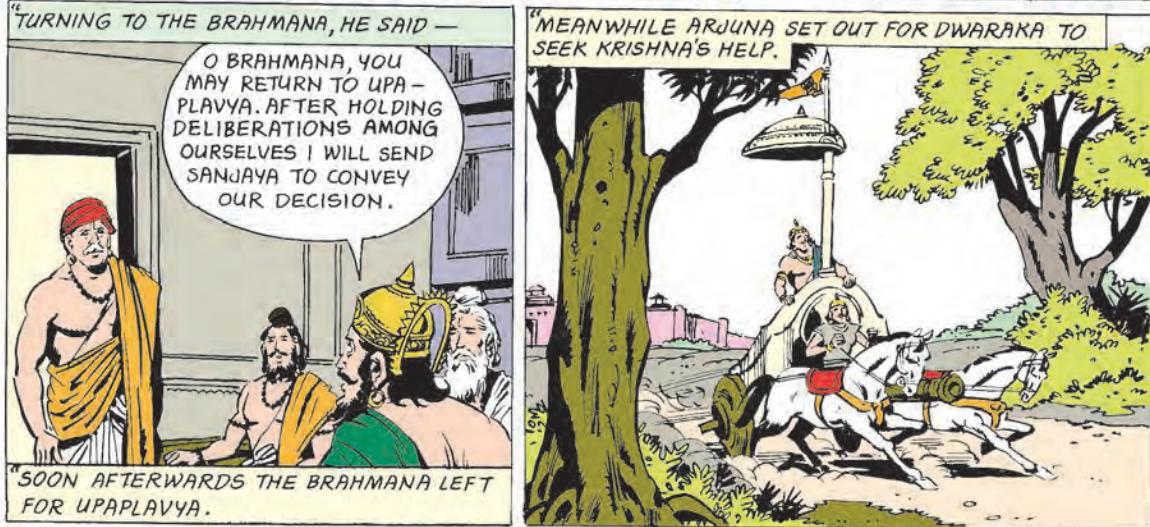
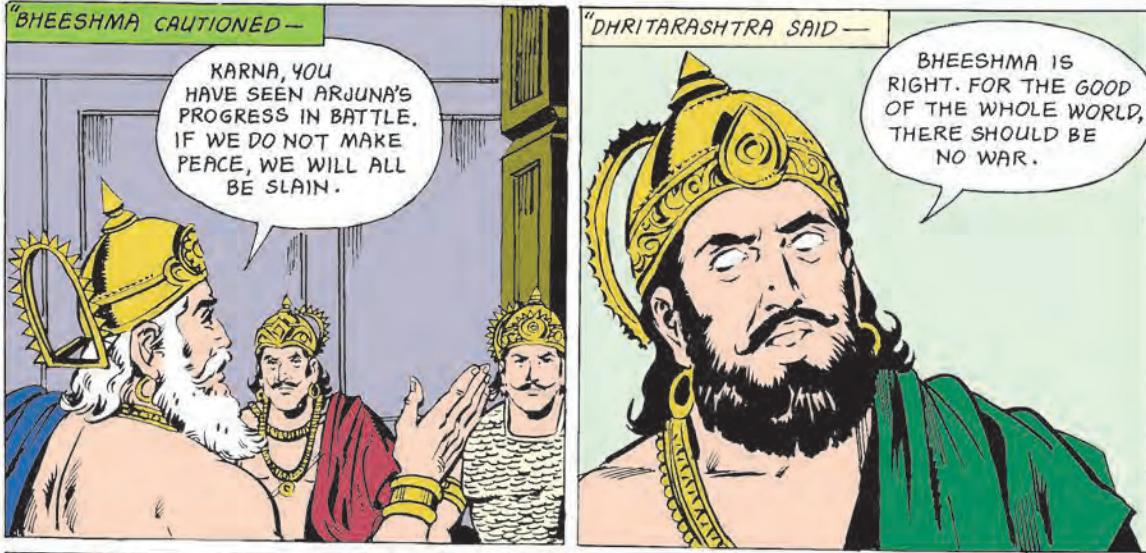


THE PANDAVAS NOW DEMAND THEIR RIGHTFUL SHARE. BUT THEY HATE TO GO TO WAR WITH THEIR KIN. HOWEVER, IF THEY ARE DENIED THEIR RIGHT AND THE KAURAVAS ARE IN A MOOD TO FIGHT, YUDHISHTHIRA IS PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE.





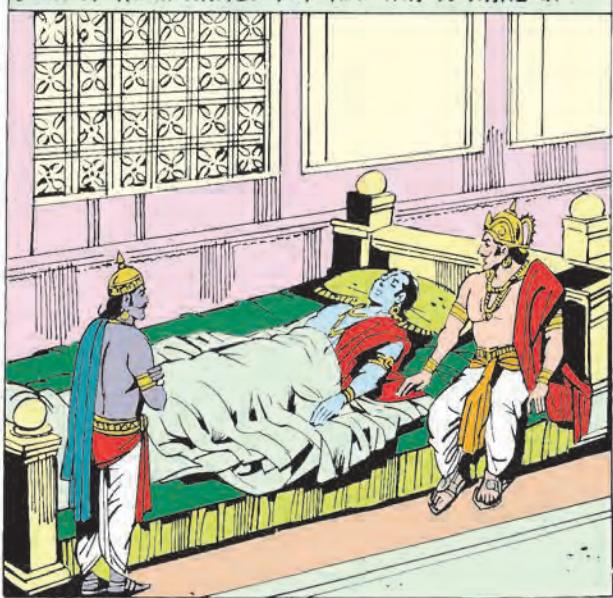
SANJAYA'S MISSION



"THE TWO REACHED KRISHNA'S CHAMBER."



"BOTH OF THEM WAITED FOR KRISHNA TO WAKE UP."



"SHORTLY—

OH ARJUNA!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



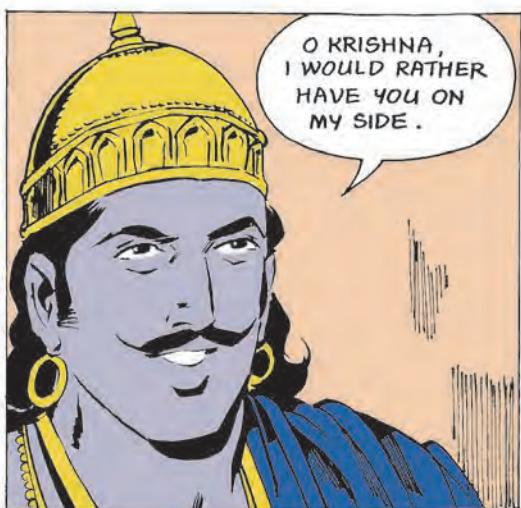
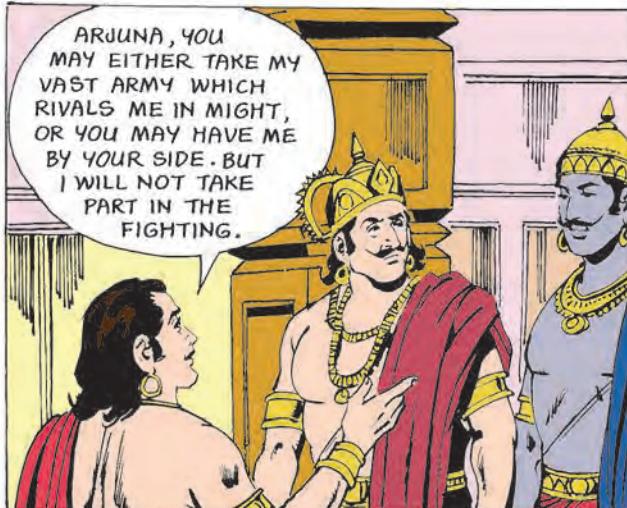
"BEFORE ARJUNA COULD REPLY—

O KRISHNA,
I CAME HERE BEFORE
ARJUNA. SO YOU MUST
LISTEN TO ME FIRST.
I NEED YOUR HELP
IN THE IMPENDING
WAR.



YOU MAY
HAVE COME FIRST,
BUT I SAW ARJUNA
FIRST. I SHALL BE FAIR
AND HELP YOU BOTH. HOW-
EVER, AS ARJUNA IS
YOUNGER, LET HIM
SPEAK FIRST.





THEN, O MONARCH,
ARJUNA AND KRISHNA
SET OFF TO JOIN
YUDHISHTHIRA.

MEANWHILE DURYODHANA MET BALARAMA.

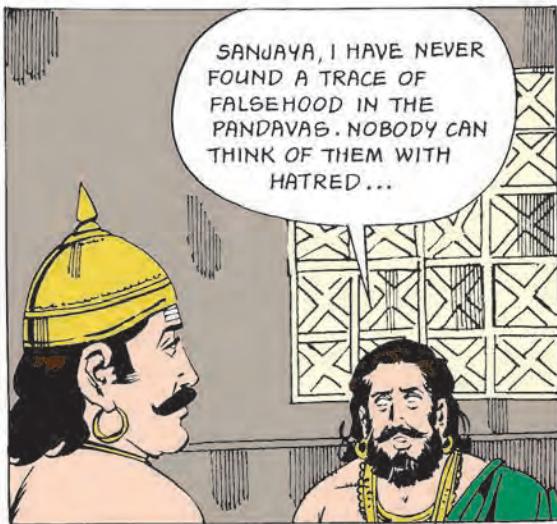
I AM LUCKY
TO HAVE GOT
THE ENTIRE
ARMY.

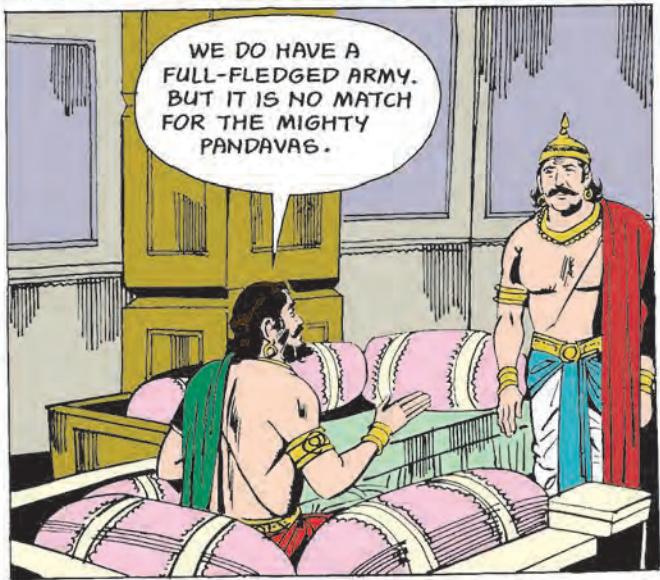
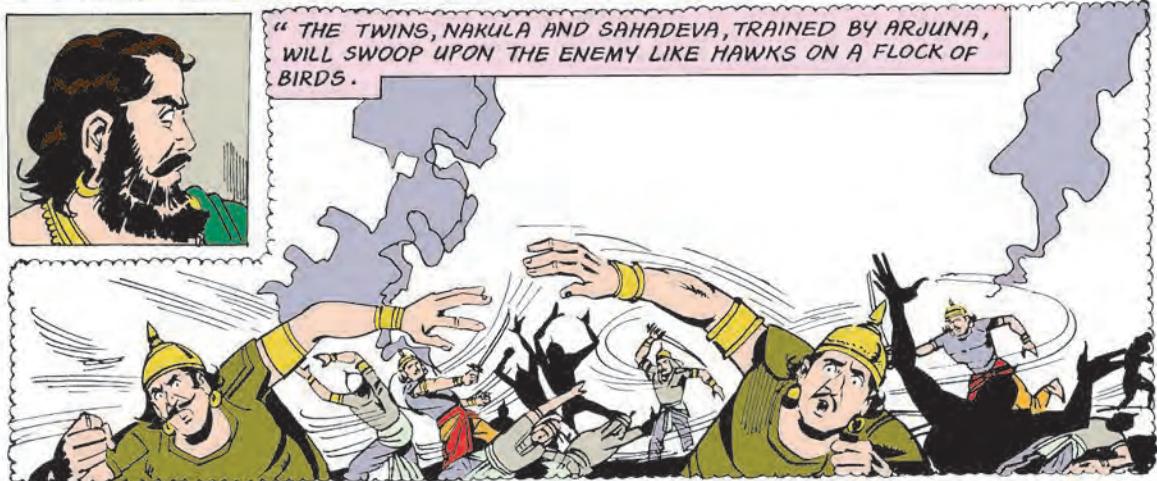
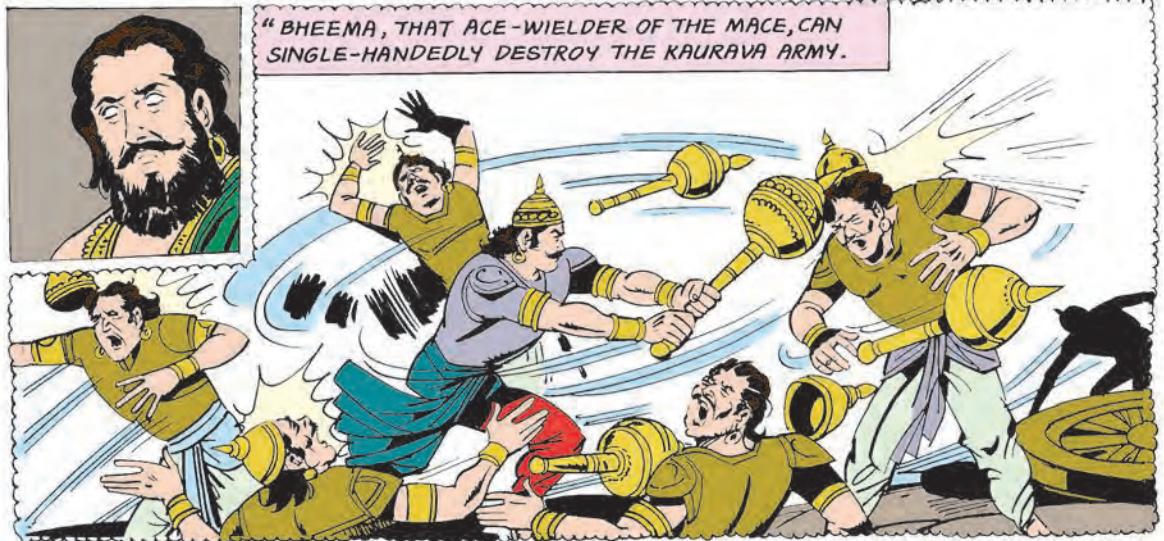
DURYODHANA,
FOR YOUR SAKE,
I OPPOSED KRISHNA
AT VIRATA'S COURT. BUT
HE DID NOT LIKE MY VIEWS.
I CANNOT ACT AGAINST THE
WISHES OF KRISHNA. IF HE
HAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE
PART IN THE FIGHTING,
NEITHER WILL I.

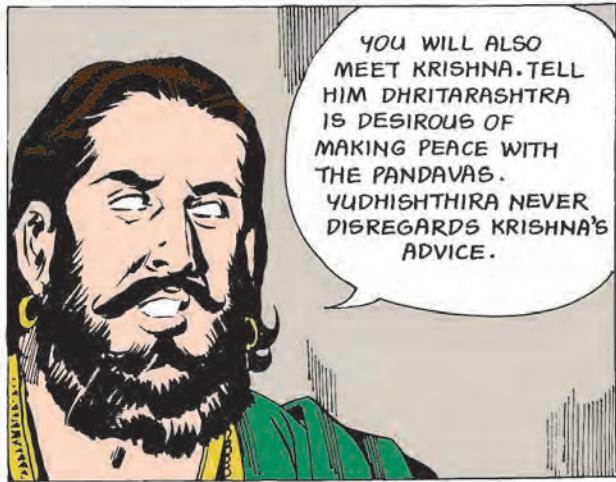
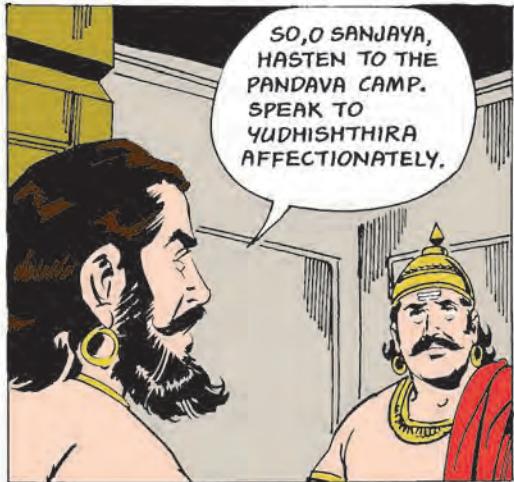
SOON AFTERWARDS DURYODHANA LEFT FOR HASTINAPURA.

MEANWHILE, AT THE COURT OF DHRITARASHTRA —

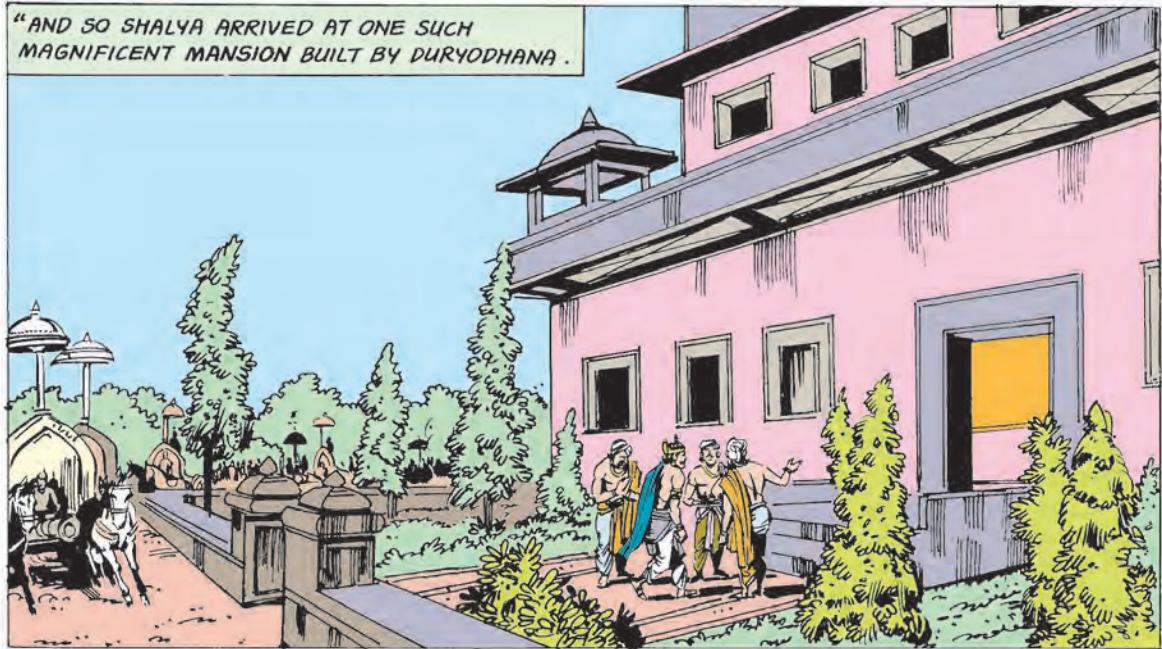
SANJAYA!
I WANT YOU TO GO TO
THE PANDAVAS. ENQUIRE
AFTER THEIR WELL-BEING.
TELL THEM THAT WE ARE
HAPPY TO KNOW THEY
HAVE COMPLETED THEIR
PERIOD OF EXILE.



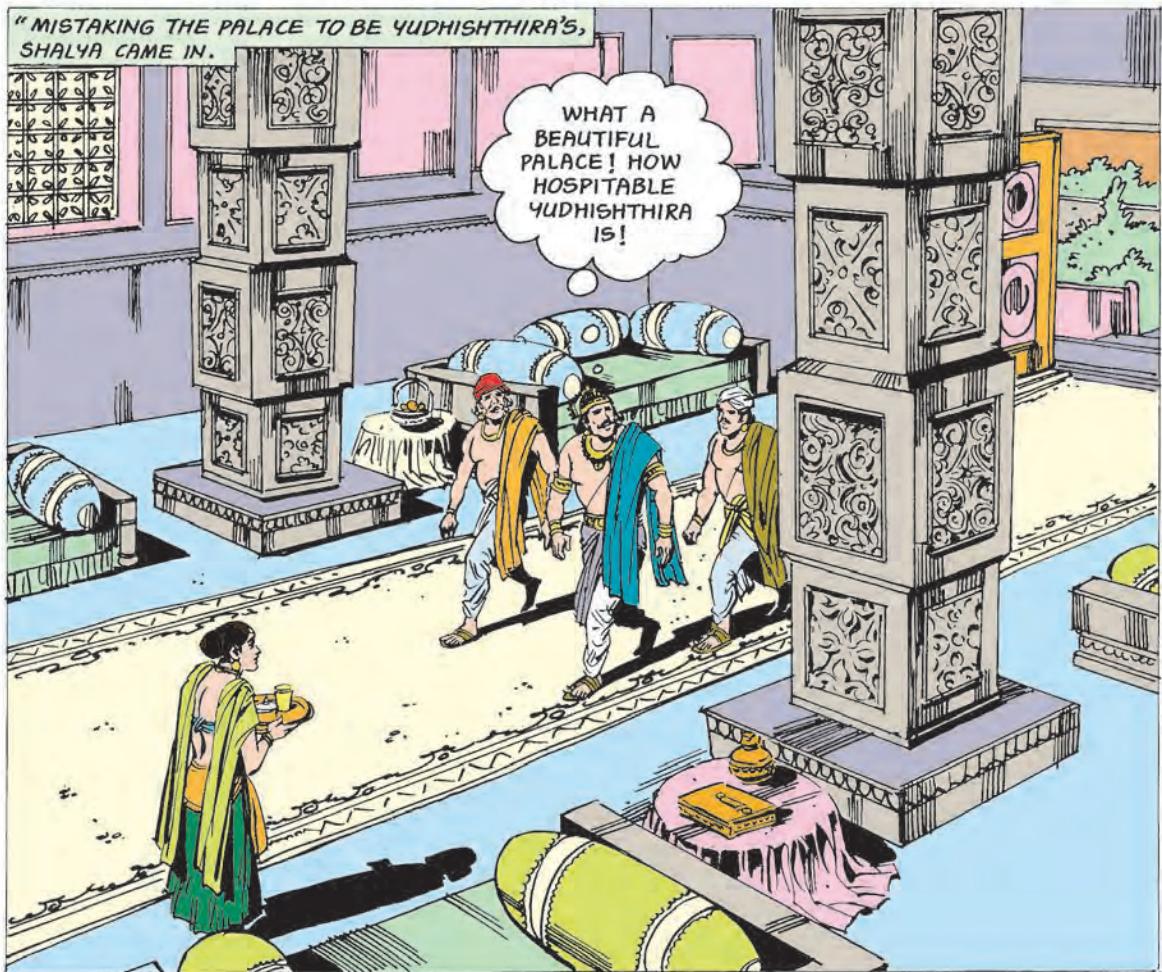


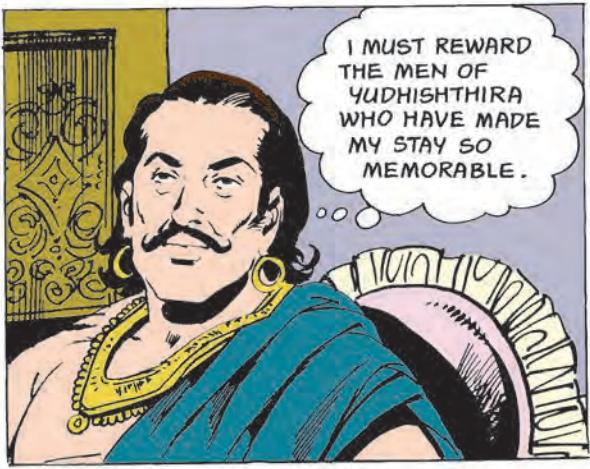
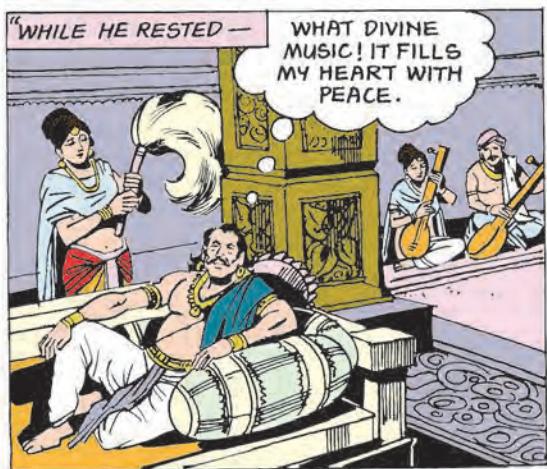
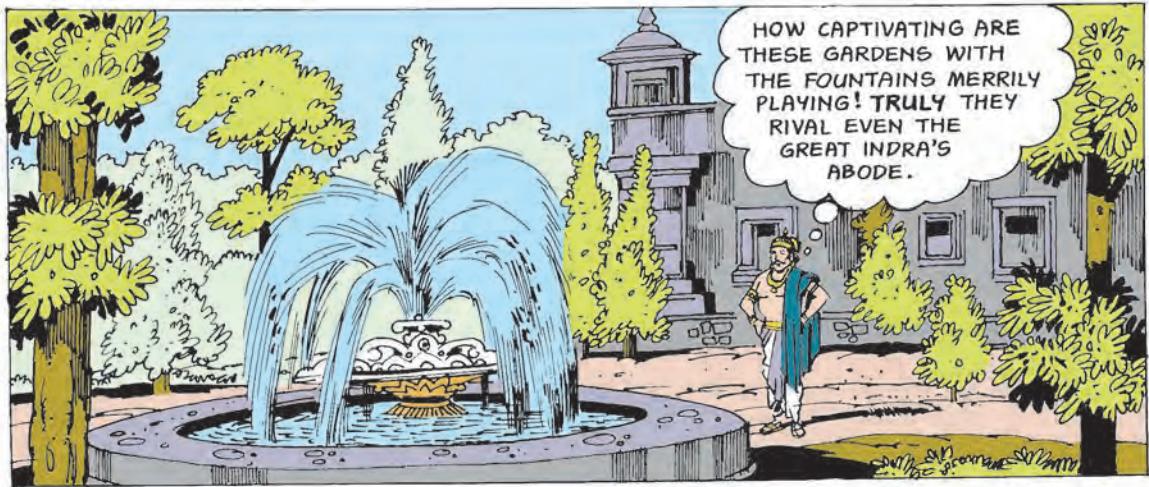


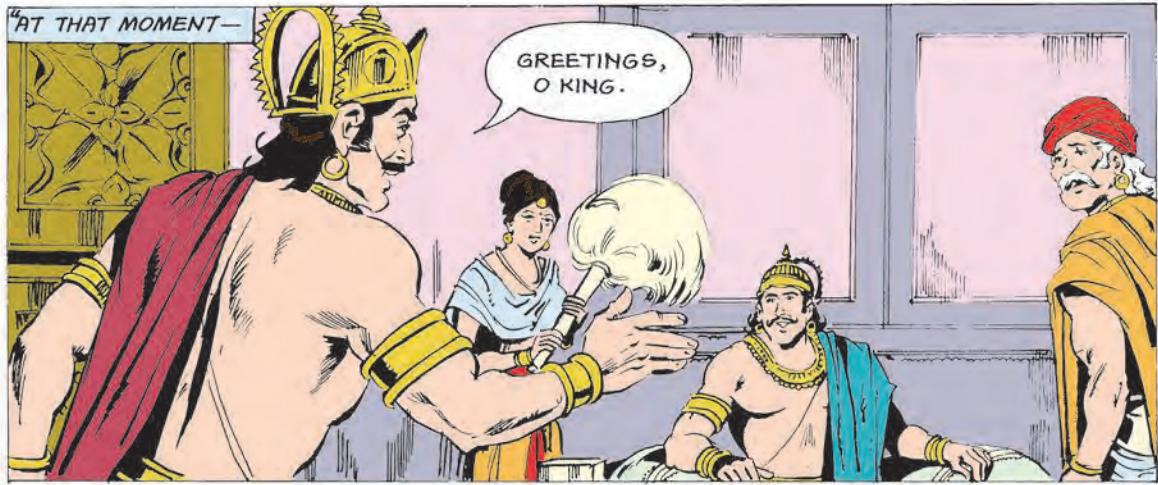
"AND SO SHALYA ARRIVED AT ONE SUCH MAGNIFICENT MANSION BUILT BY DURYODHANA .

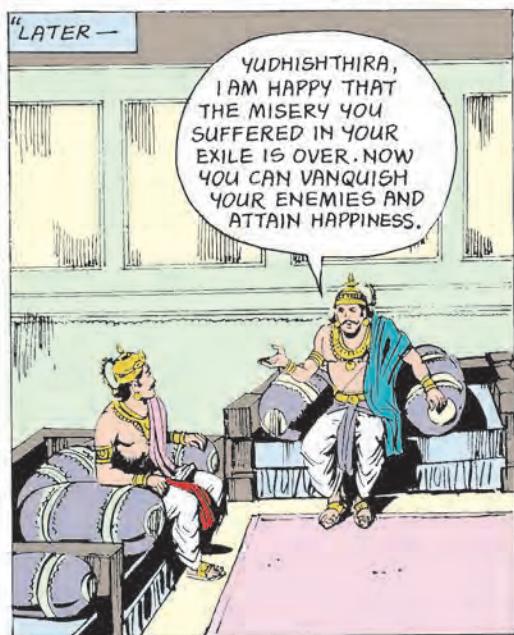
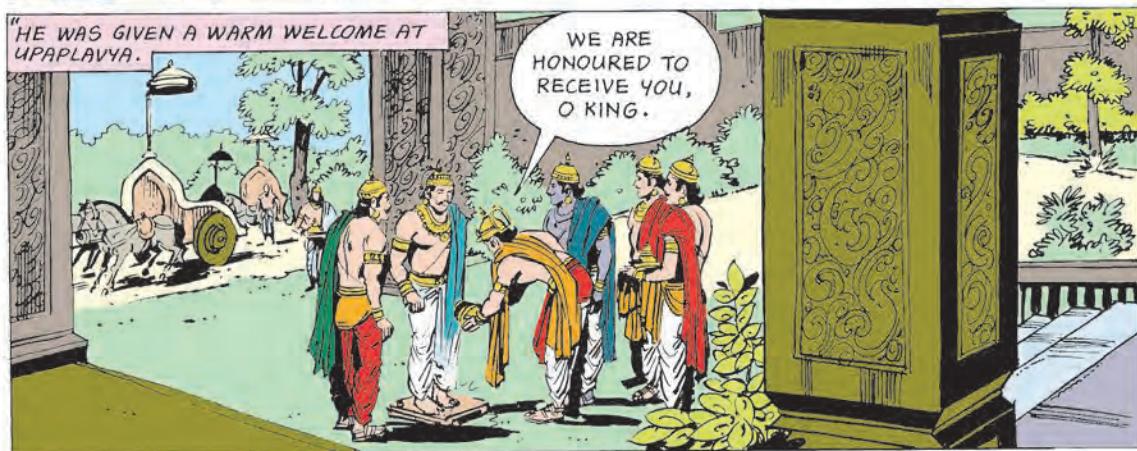


"MISTAKING THE PALACE TO BE YUDHISHTHIRA'S, SHALYA CAME IN.



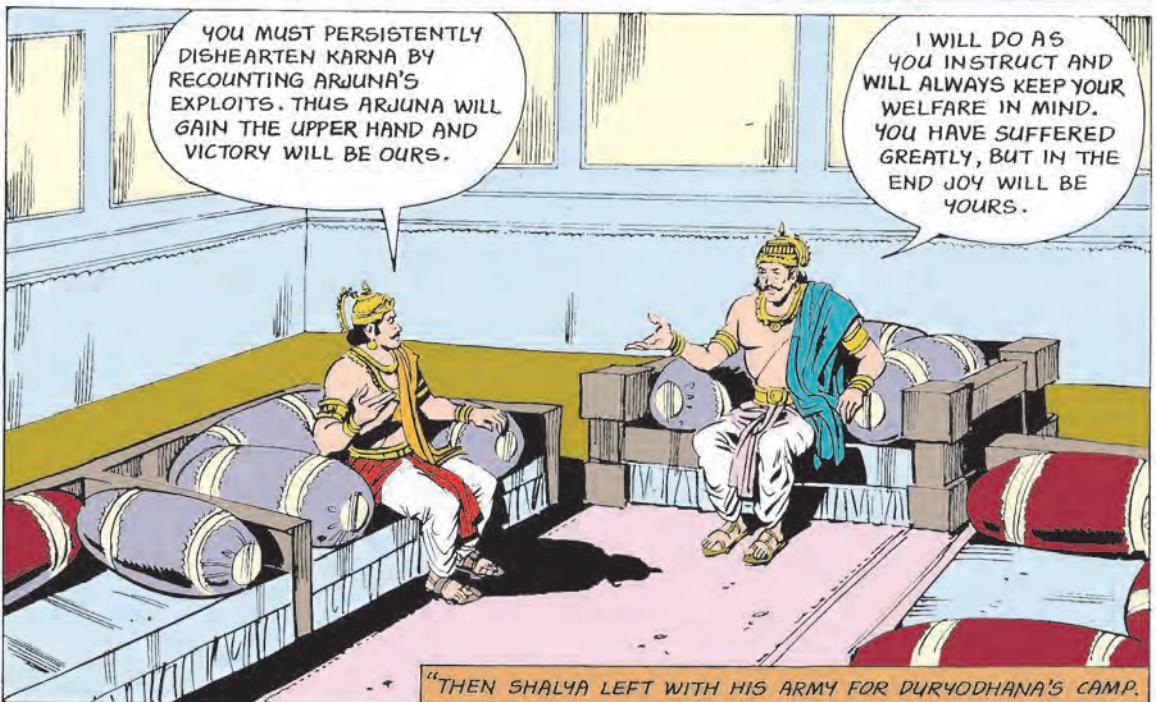
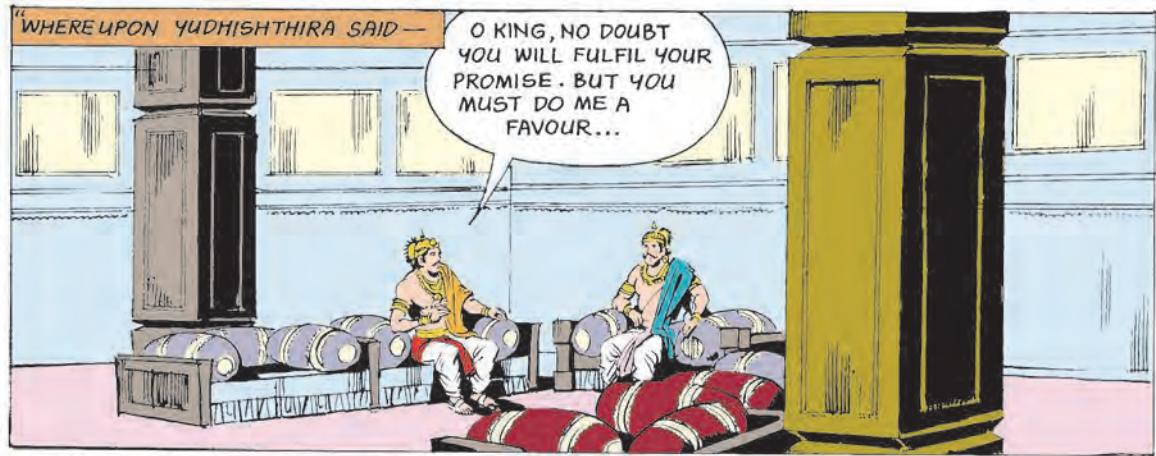






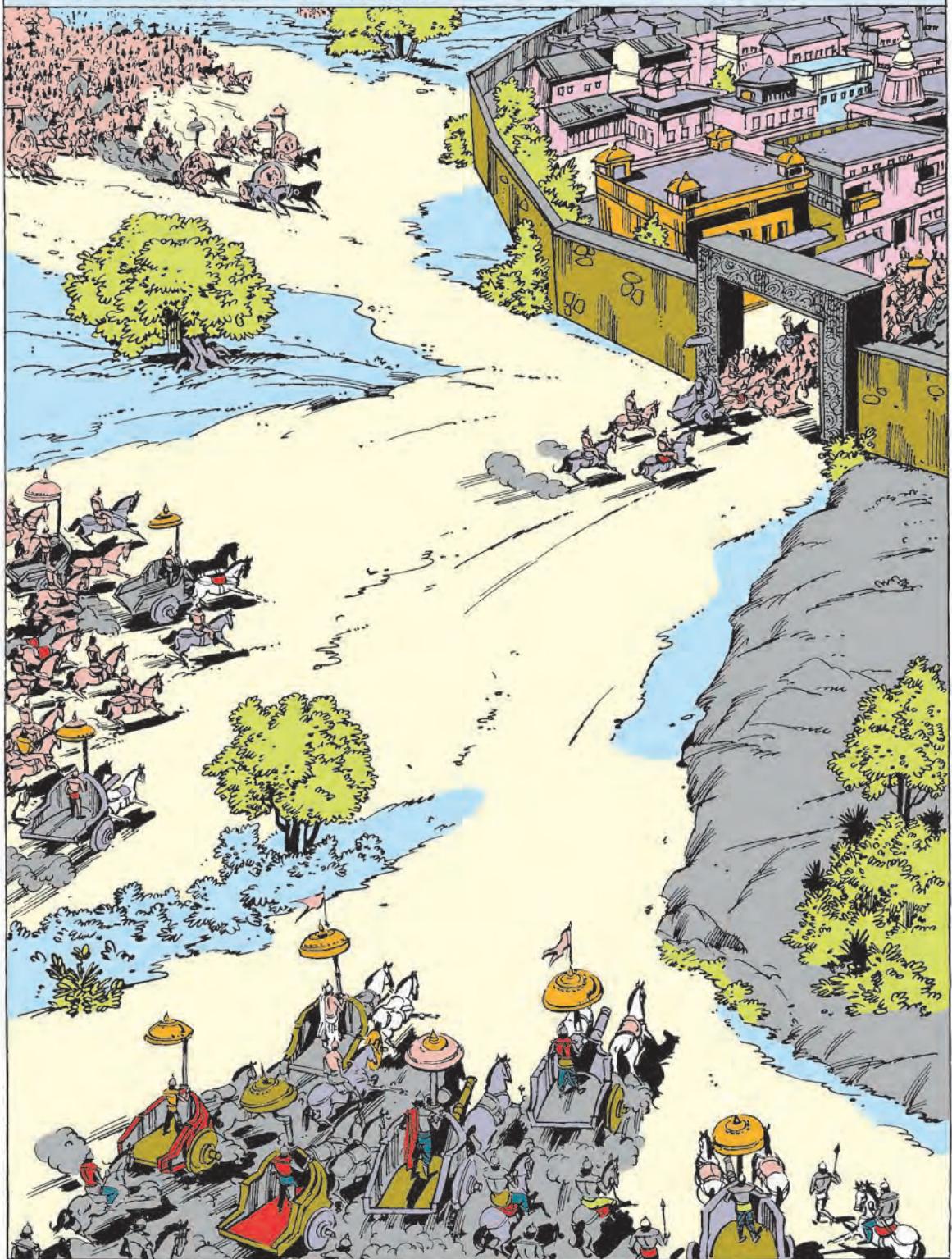
"WHERE UPON YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

O KING, NO DOUBT
YOU WILL FULFIL YOUR
PROMISE. BUT YOU
MUST DO ME A
FAVOUR...

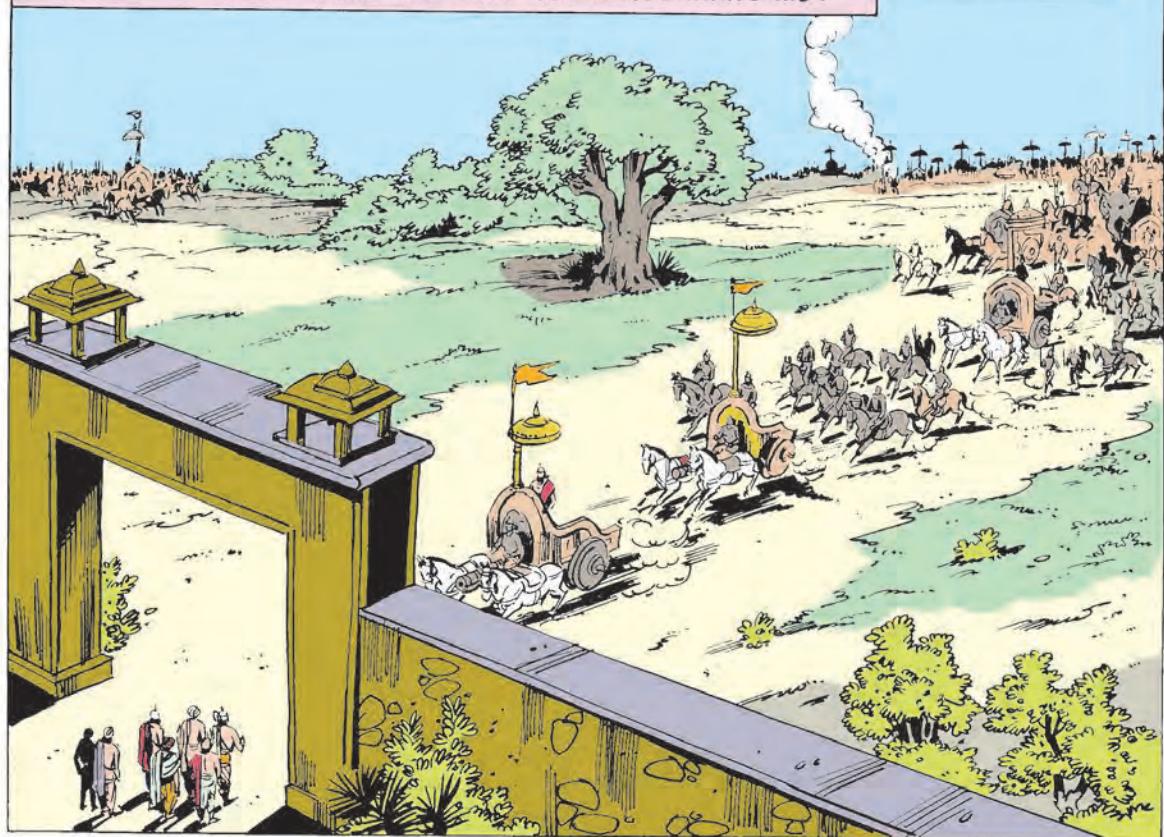


"THEN SHALYA LEFT WITH HIS ARMY FOR DURYODHANA'S CAMP.

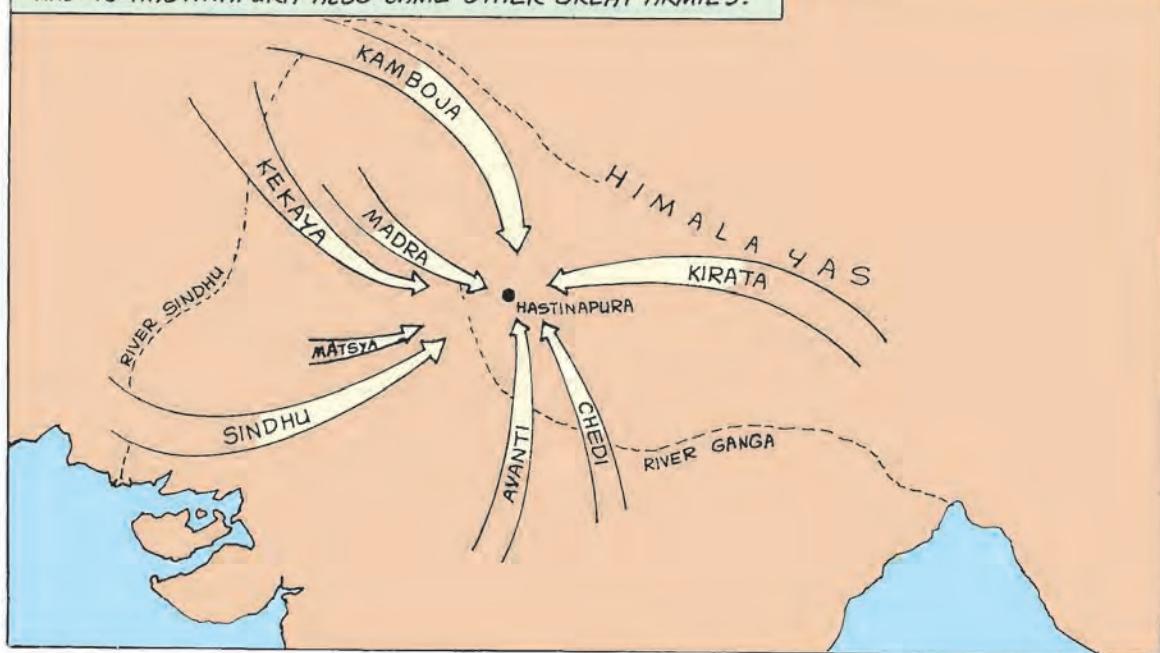
"AND THEN THE TROOPS CAME MARCHING INTO UPAPLAVYA FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. SATYAKI, THE GREAT HERO, CAME WITH HIS ARMY. THE FORCES OF THE CHIEF OF THE CHEDIS, THE KING OF MAGADHA AND THOSE OF VIRATA TOO SWELLED THE PANDAVA RANKS.



"THE NUMBERS IN THE KAURAVA CAMP TOO WERE SWELLING. KING BHAGADATTA, THE VALIANT BHURISHRAVAS, KRITAVARMAN, THE SON OF THE HRIDIKA, THE BHOJAS, THE ANDHAKAS AND THE KUKURAS—ALL CAME TO DURYODHANA'S AID.

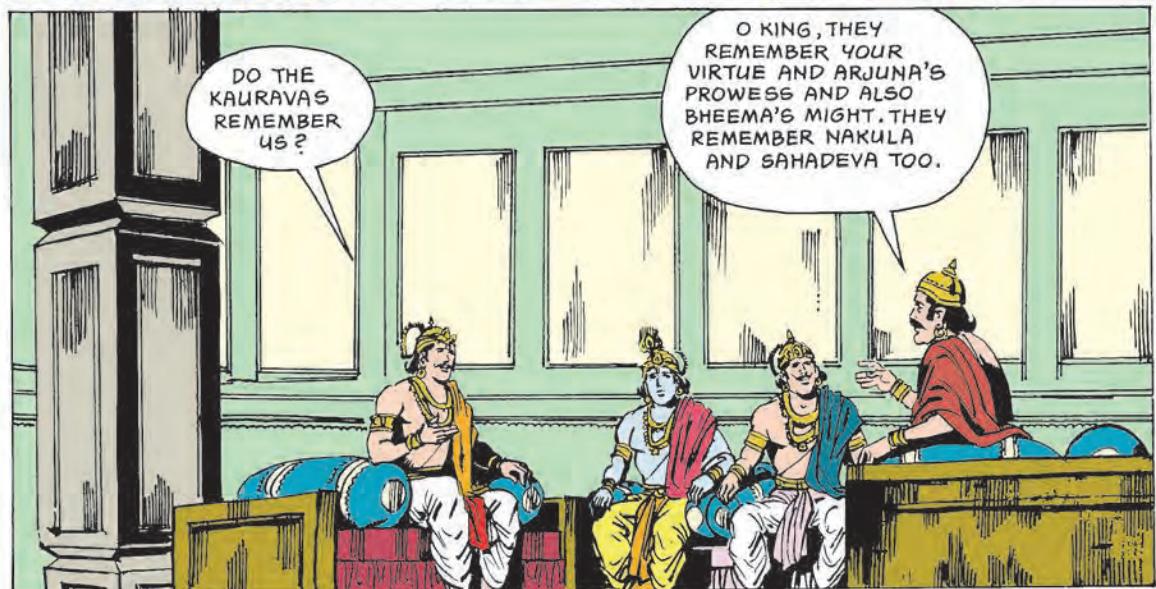


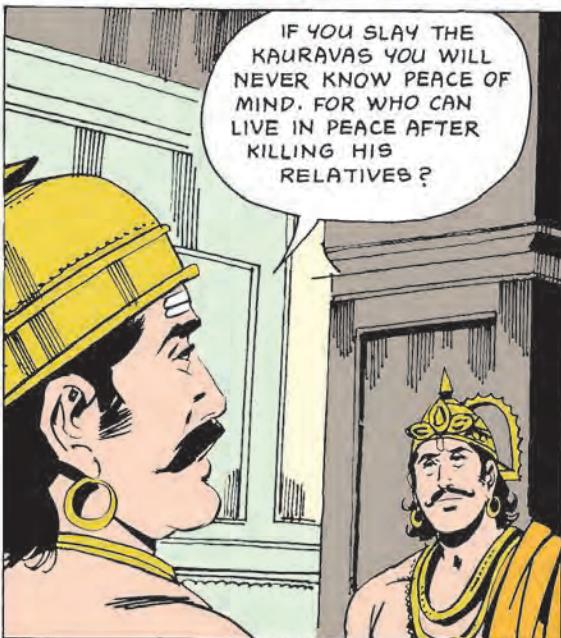
"AND TO HASTINAPURA ALSO CAME OTHER GREAT ARMIES.



SANJAYA'S MISSION

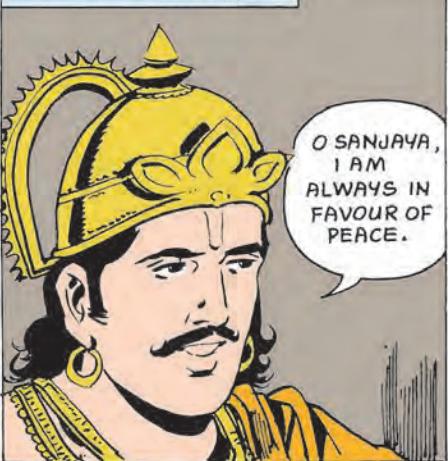
"MEANWHILE AT UPAPLAVYA, DHRITARASHTRA'S AMBASSADOR SANJAYA WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY YUDHISHTHIRA.

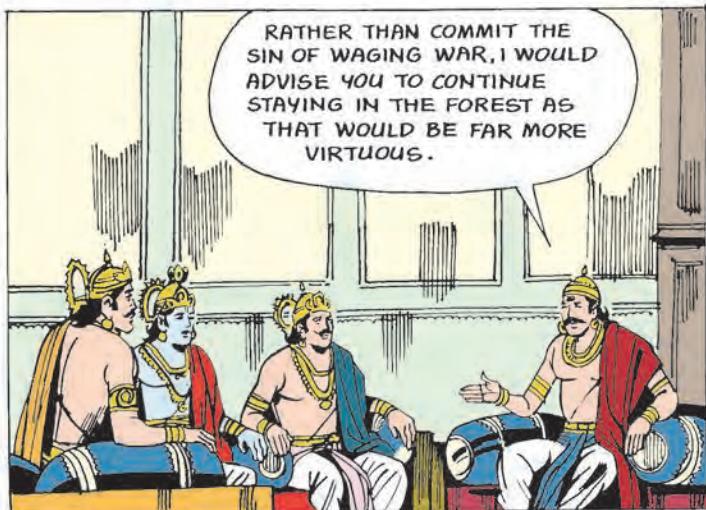
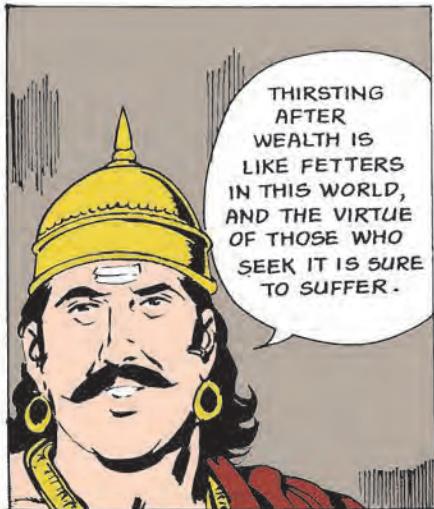


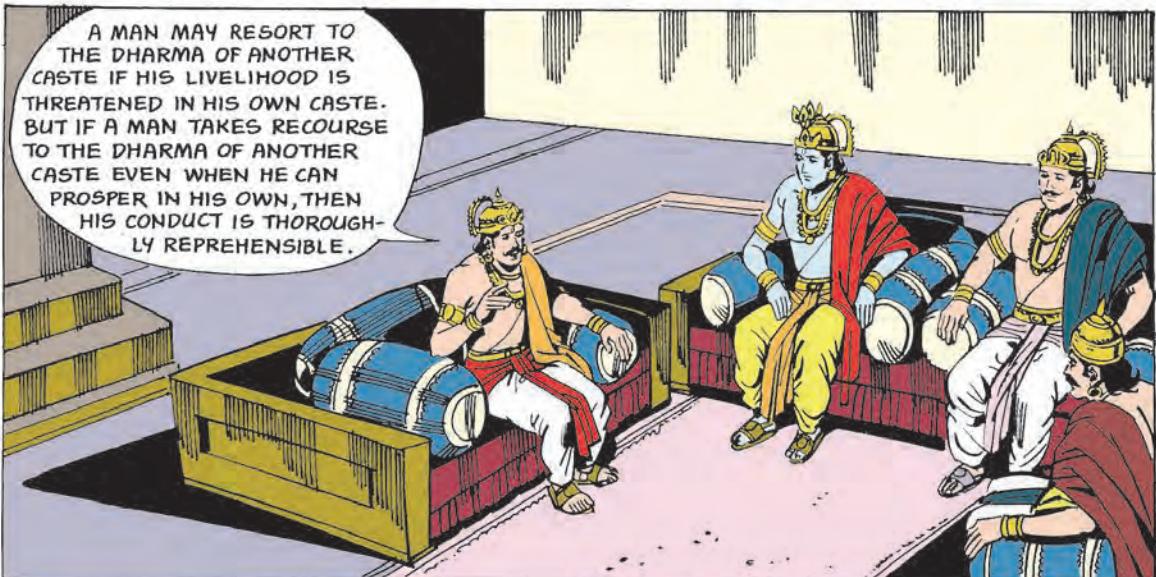
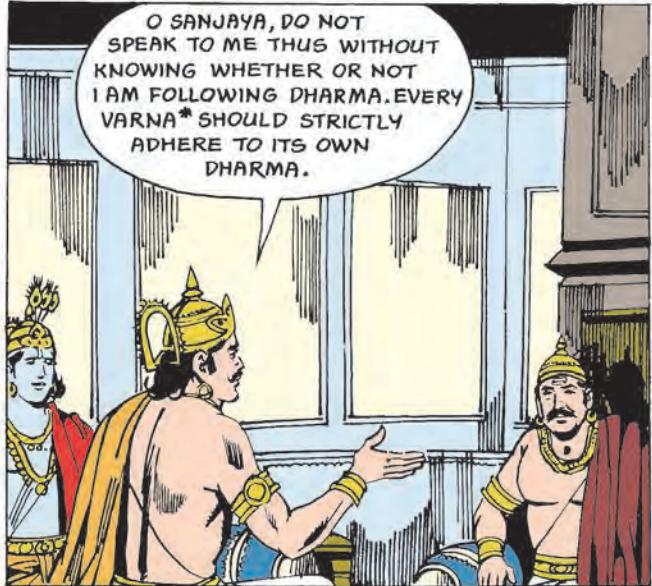
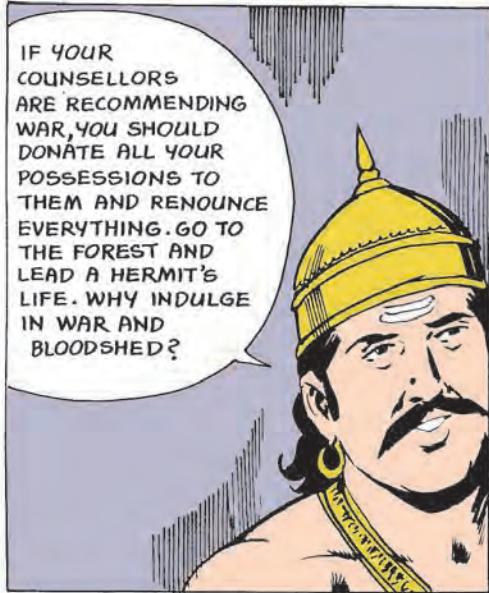


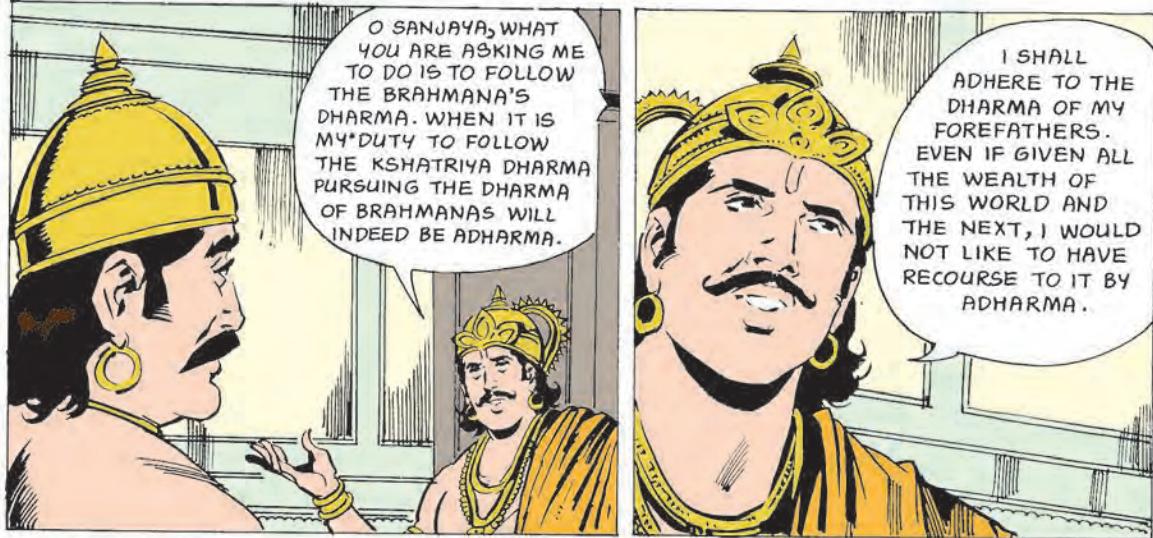
SANJAYA'S MISSION

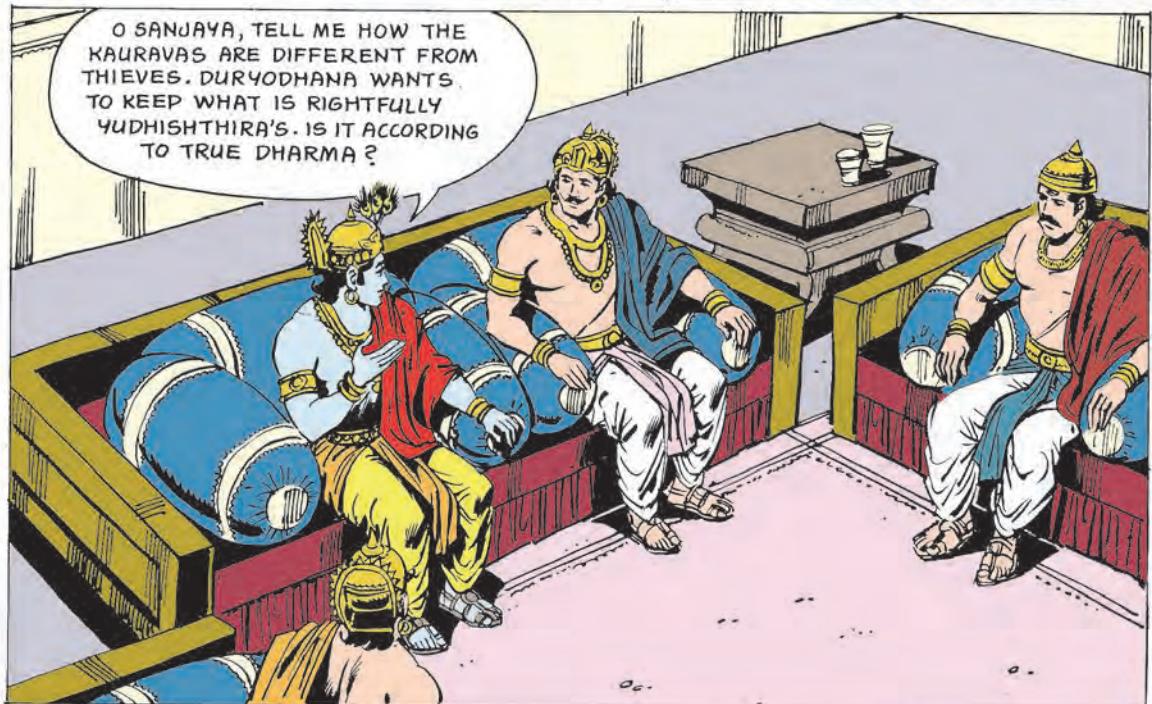
"SAID YUDHISHTHIRA —

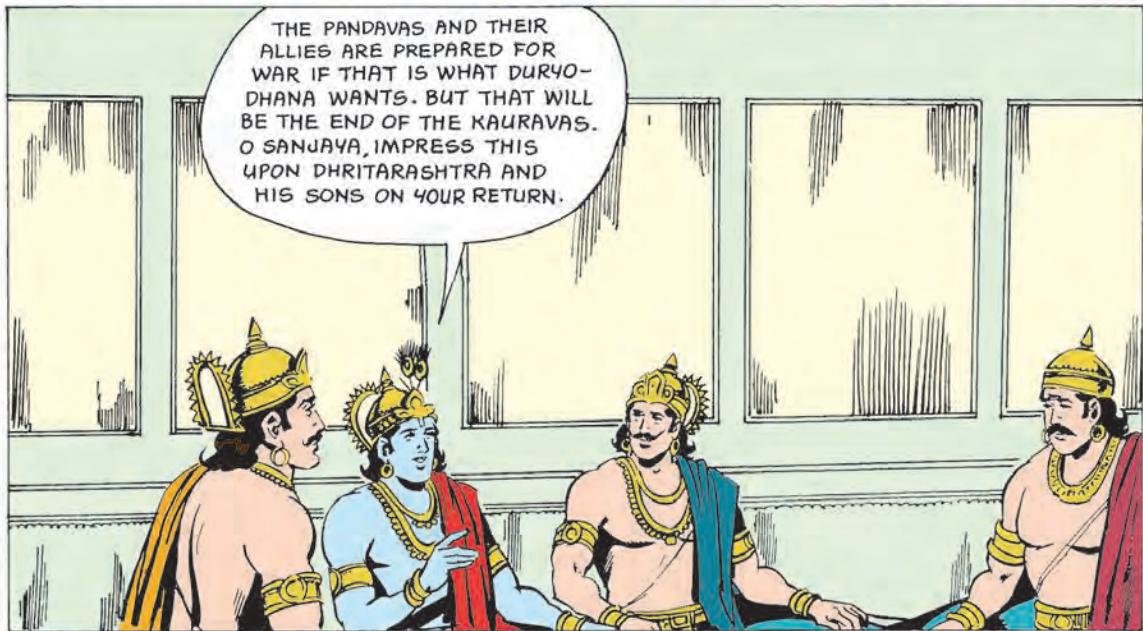
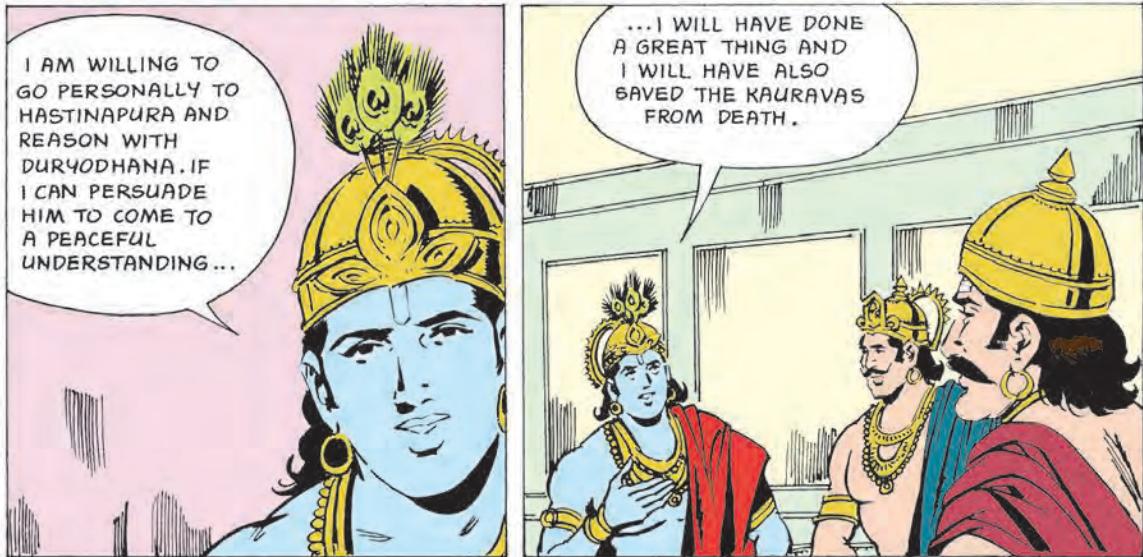






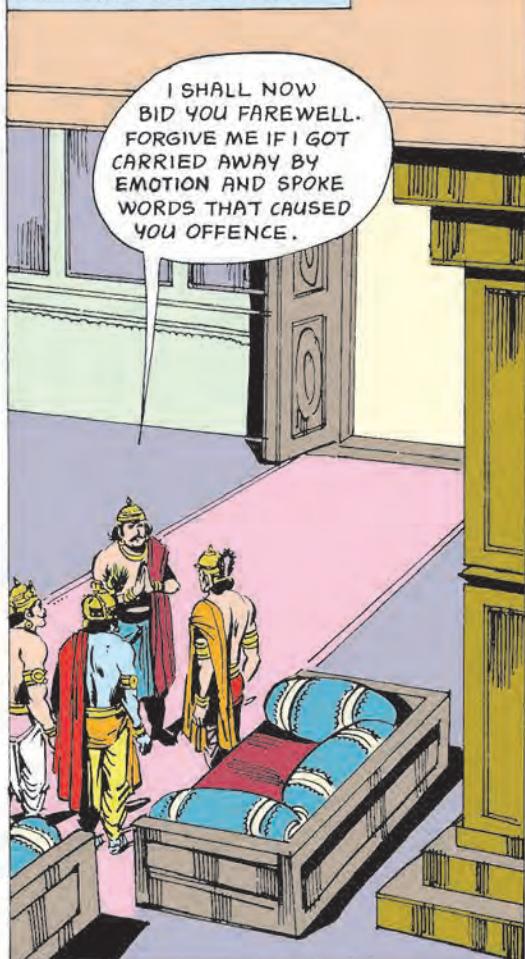




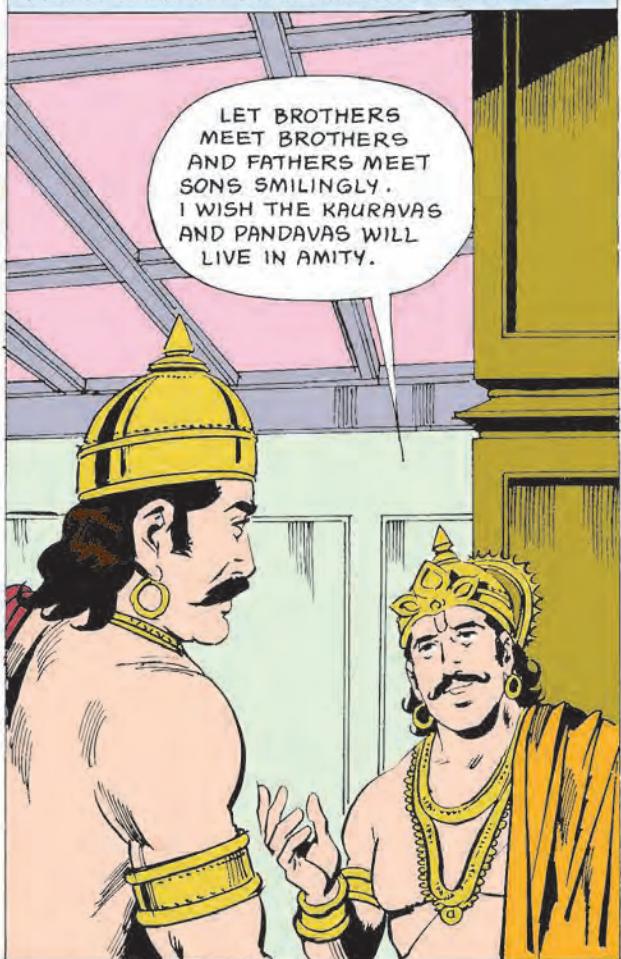




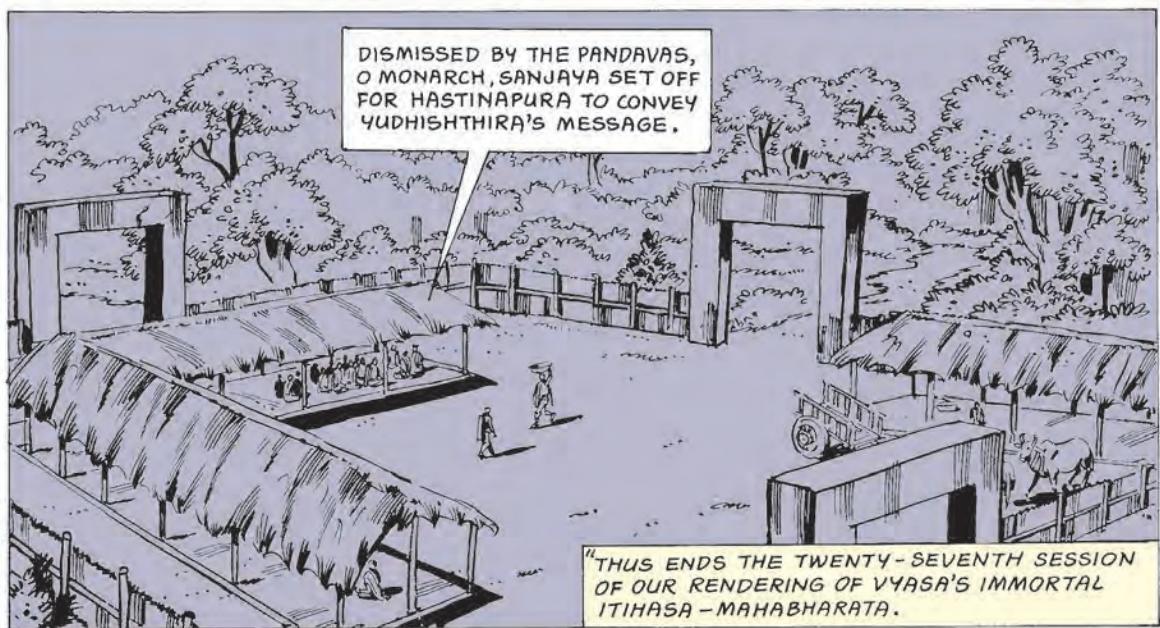
"SANJAYA ROSE TO LEAVE.



"YUDHISHTHIRA BADE HIM FAREWELL BY SAYING —



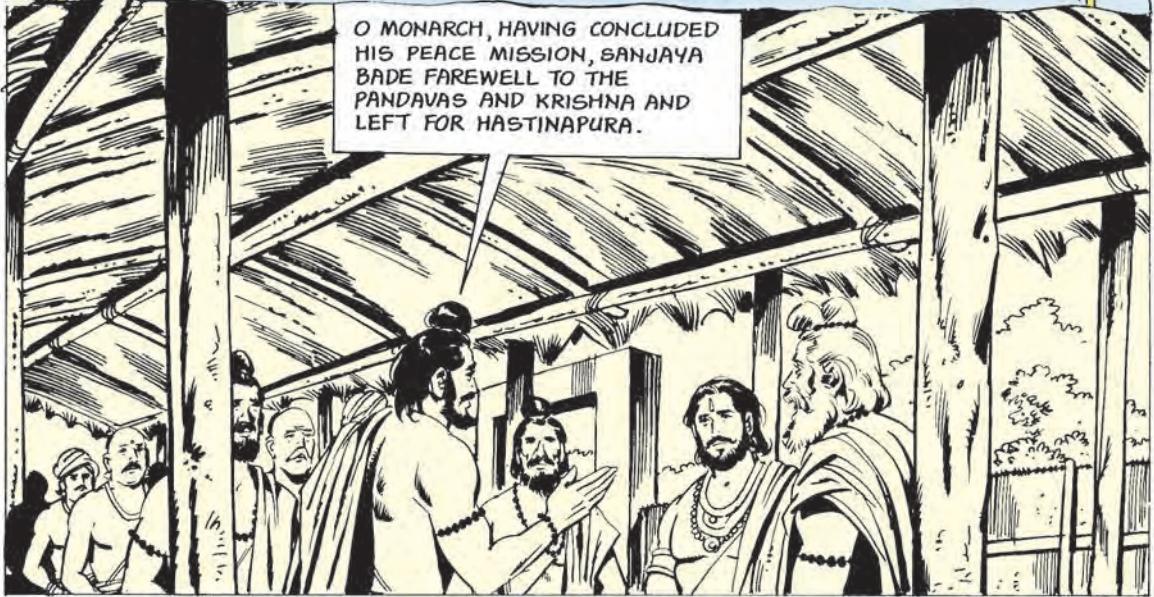
DISMISSED BY THE PANDAVAS, O MONARCH, SANJAYA SET OFF FOR HASTINAPURA TO CONVEY YUDHISHTHIRA'S MESSAGE.



Mahabharata - 28

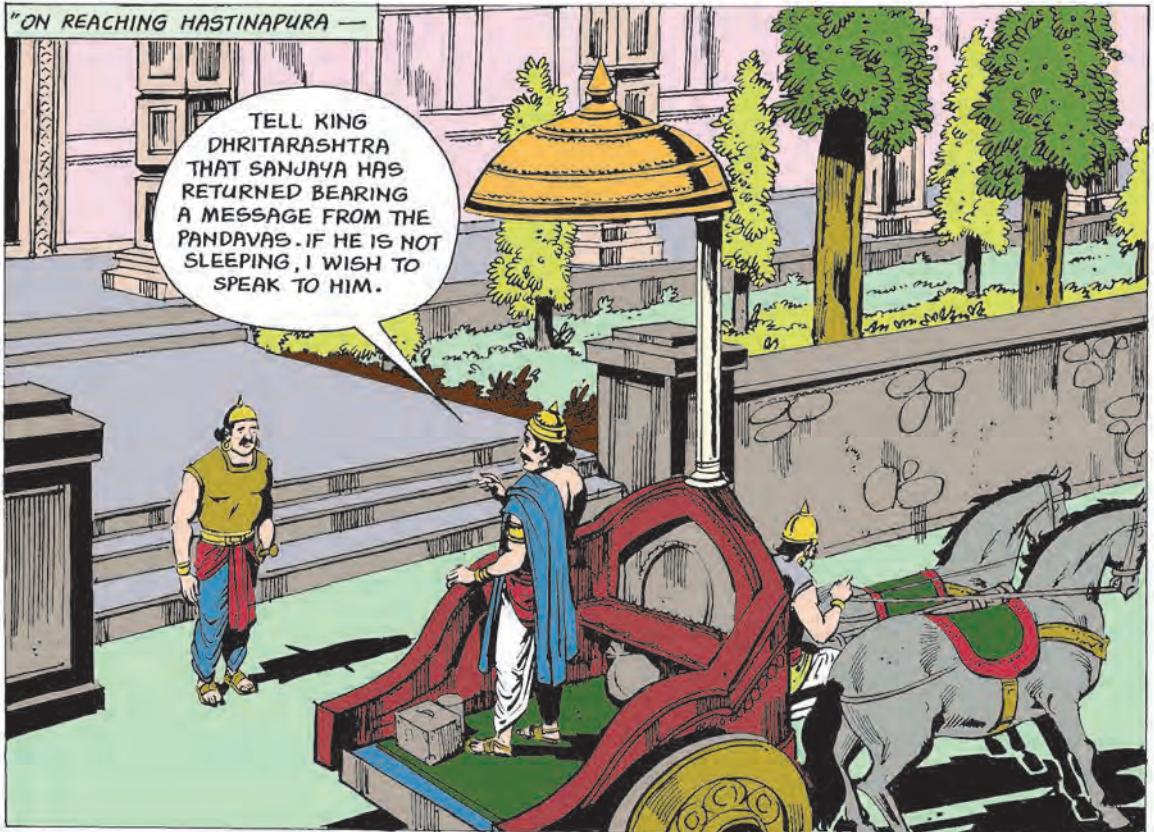
DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

O MONARCH, HAVING CONCLUDED HIS PEACE MISSION, SANJAYA BADE FAREWELL TO THE PANDAVAS AND KRISHNA AND LEFT FOR HASTINAPURA.



"ON REACHING HASTINAPURA —

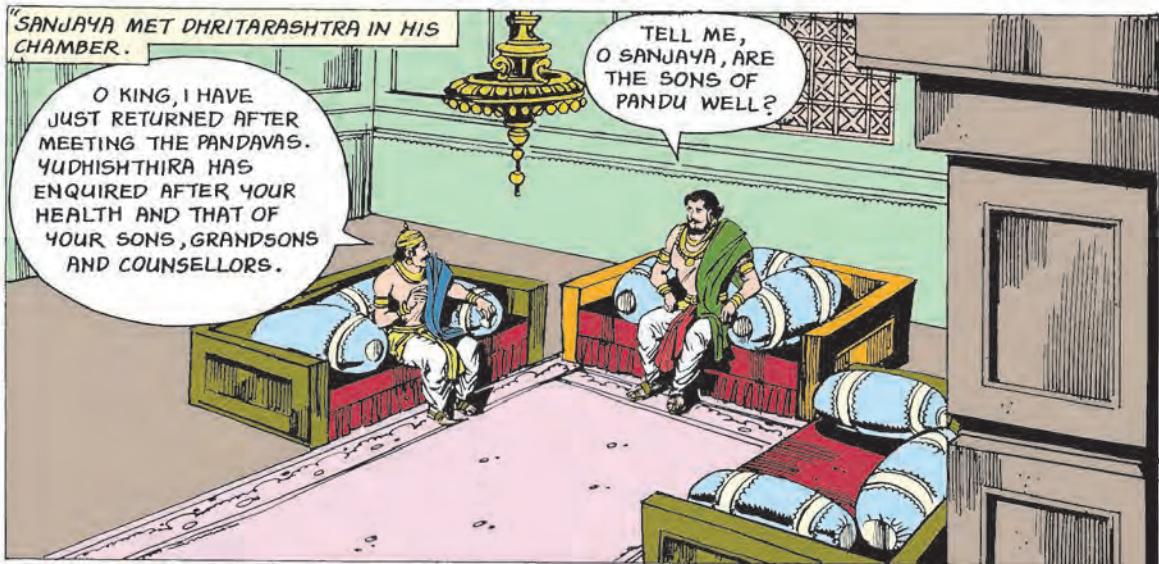
TELL KING DHRITARASHTRA THAT SANJAYA HAS RETURNED BEARING A MESSAGE FROM THE PANDAVAS. IF HE IS NOT SLEEPING, I WISH TO SPEAK TO HIM.



"SANJAYA MET DHRITARASHTRA IN HIS CHAMBER.

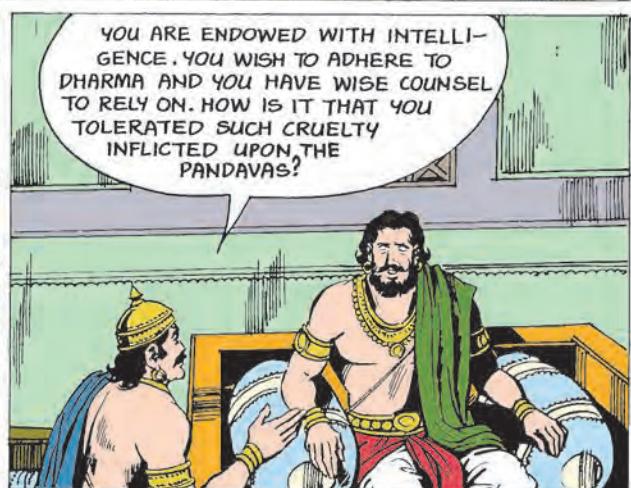
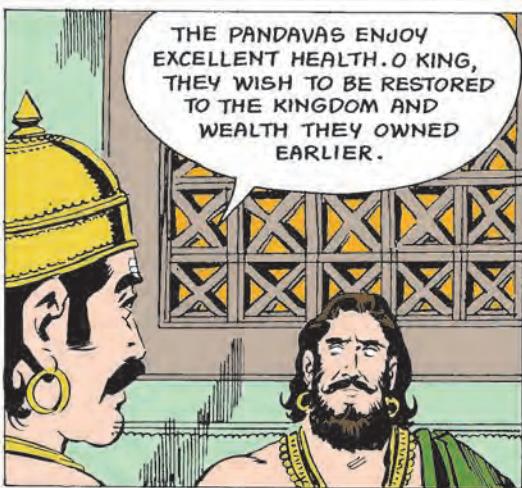
O KING, I HAVE JUST RETURNED AFTER MEETING THE PANDAVAS. YUDHISHTHIRA HAS ENQUIRED AFTER YOUR HEALTH AND THAT OF YOUR SONS, GRANDSONS AND COUNSELLORS.

TELL ME, O SANJAYA, ARE THE SONS OF PANDU WELL?



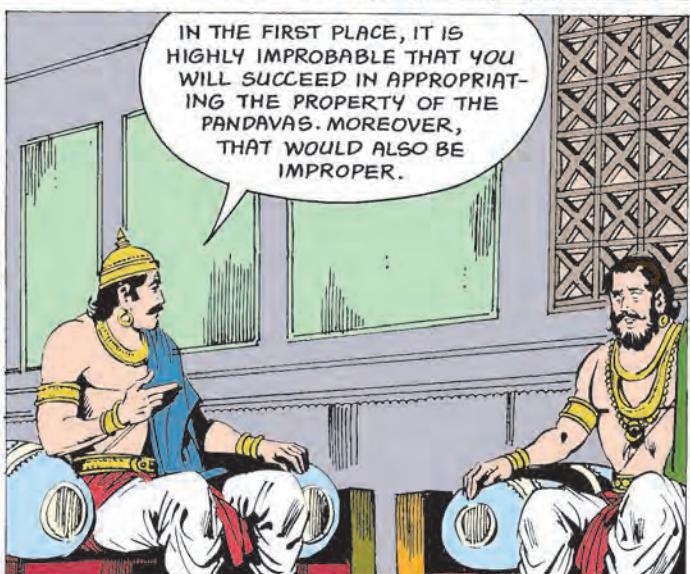
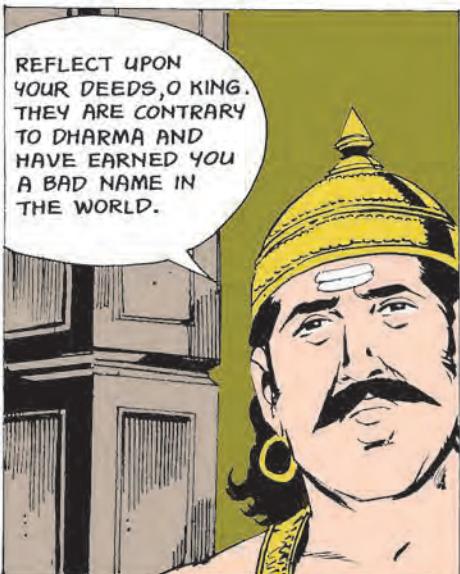
THE PANDAVAS ENJOY EXCELLENT HEALTH. O KING, THEY WISH TO BE RESTORED TO THE KINGDOM AND WEALTH THEY OWNED EARLIER.

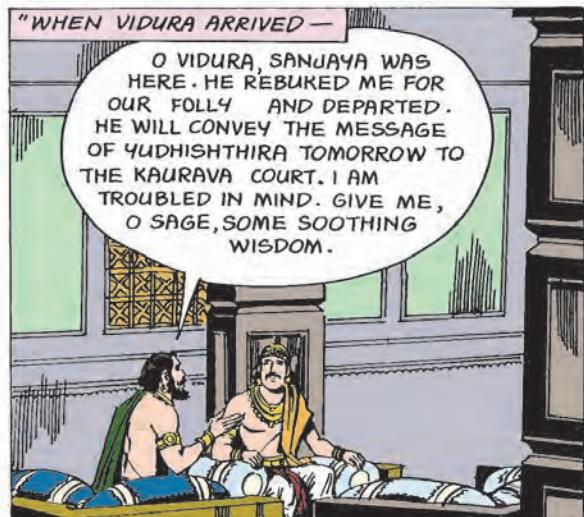
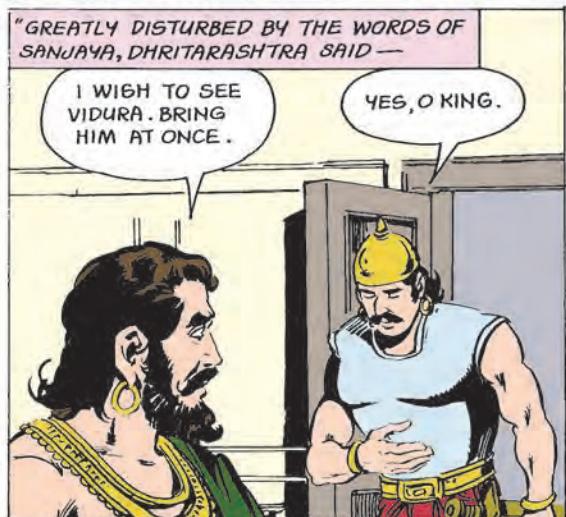
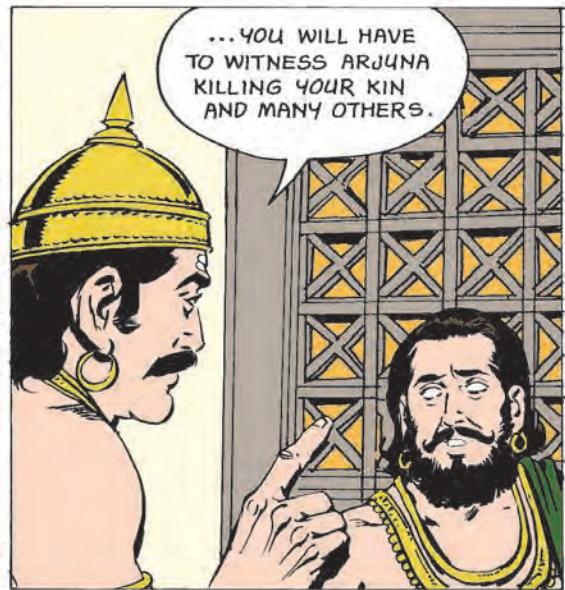
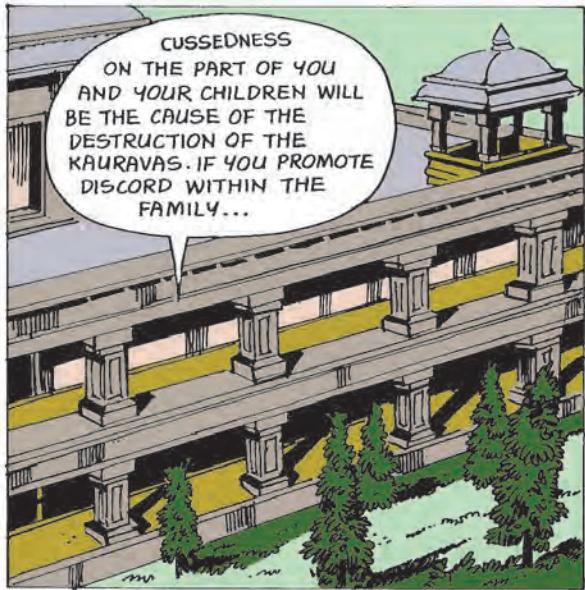
YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH INTELLIGENCE. YOU WISH TO ADHERE TO DHARMA AND YOU HAVE WISE COUNSEL TO RELY ON. HOW IS IT THAT YOU TOLERATED SUCH CRUELTY INFILCTED UPON THE PANDAVAS?

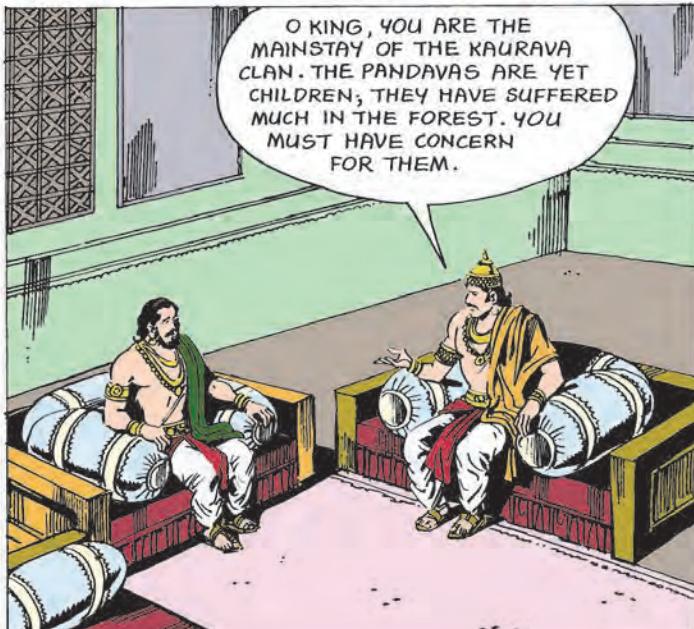
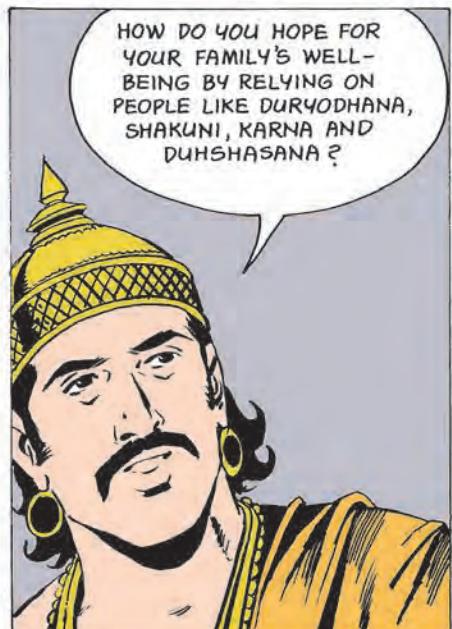
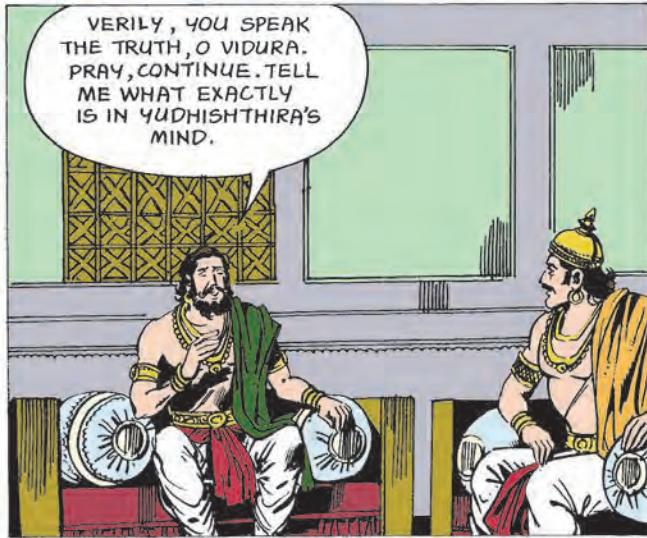
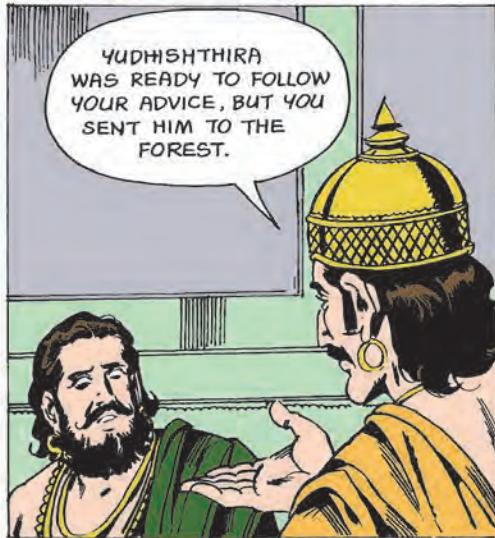


REFLECT UPON YOUR DEEDS, O KING. THEY ARE CONTRARY TO DHARMA AND HAVE EARNED YOU A BAD NAME IN THE WORLD.

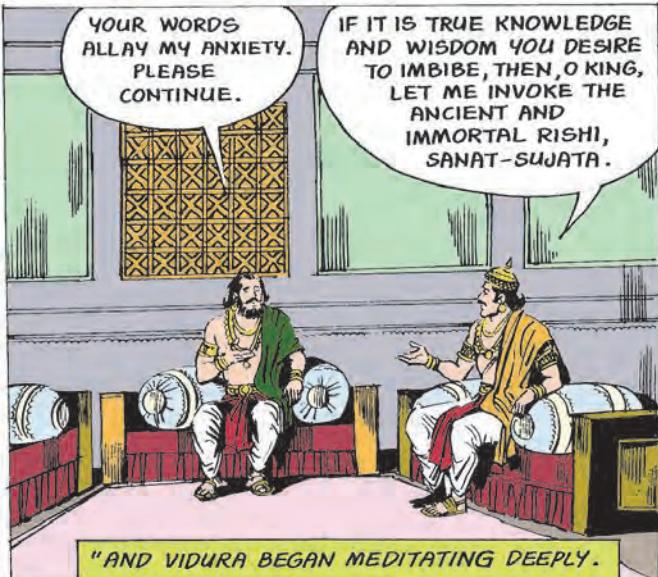
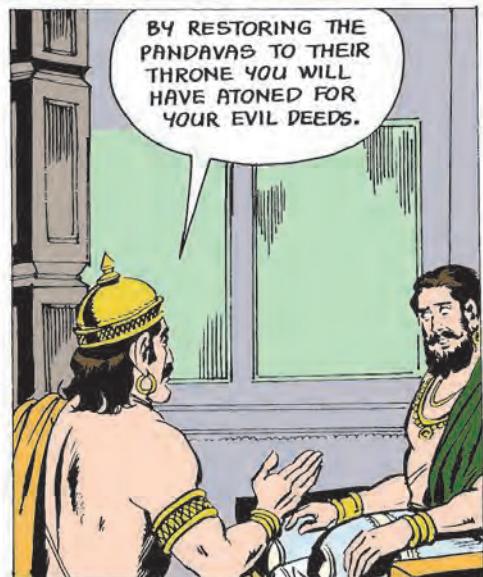
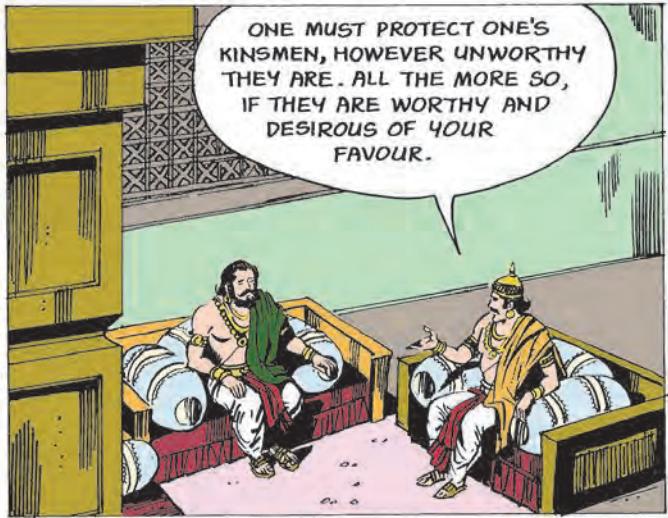
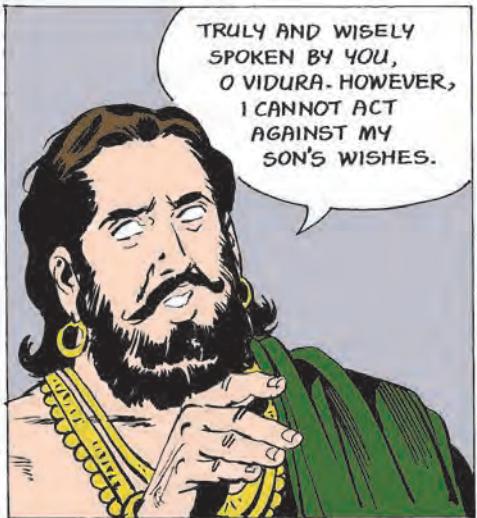
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT YOU WILL SUCCEED IN APPROPRIATING THE PROPERTY OF THE PANDAVAS. MOREOVER, THAT WOULD ALSO BE IMPROPER.







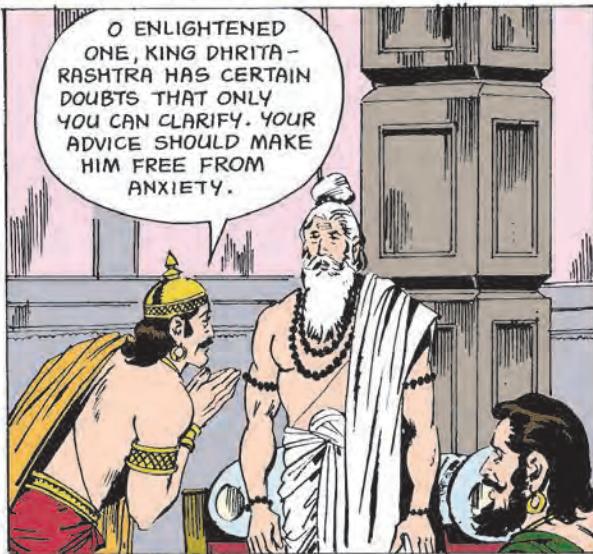
DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD



"THE NEXT INSTANT —

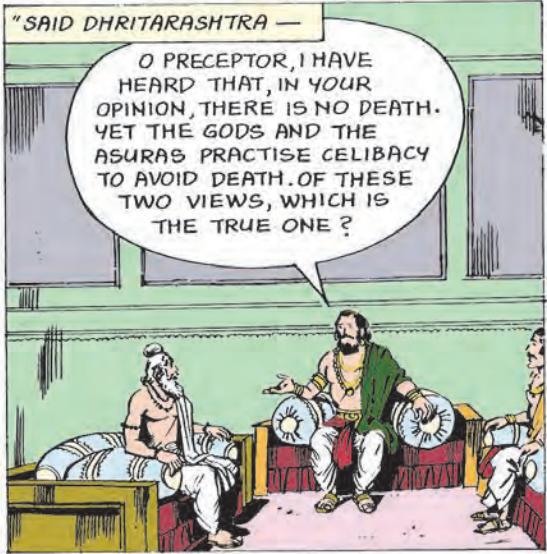


O ENLIGHTENED ONE, KING DHRITARASHTRA HAS CERTAIN DOUBTS THAT ONLY YOU CAN CLARIFY. YOUR ADVICE SHOULD MAKE HIM FREE FROM ANXIETY.

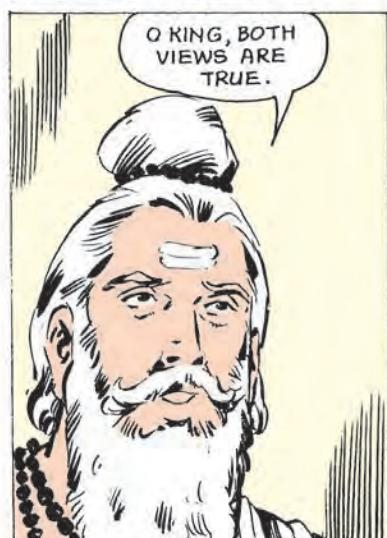


"SAID DHRITARASHTRA —

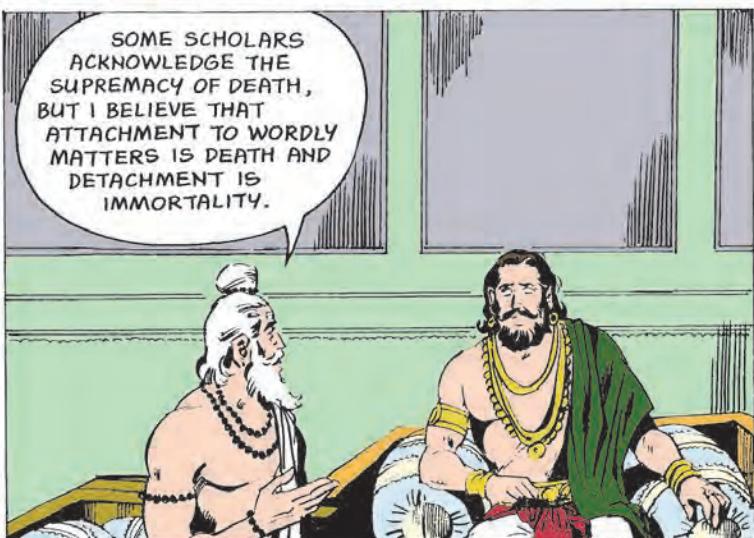
O PRECEPTOR, I HAVE HEARD THAT, IN YOUR OPINION, THERE IS NO DEATH. YET THE GODS AND THE ASURAS PRACTISE CELIBACY TO AVOID DEATH. OF THESE TWO VIEWS, WHICH IS THE TRUE ONE?



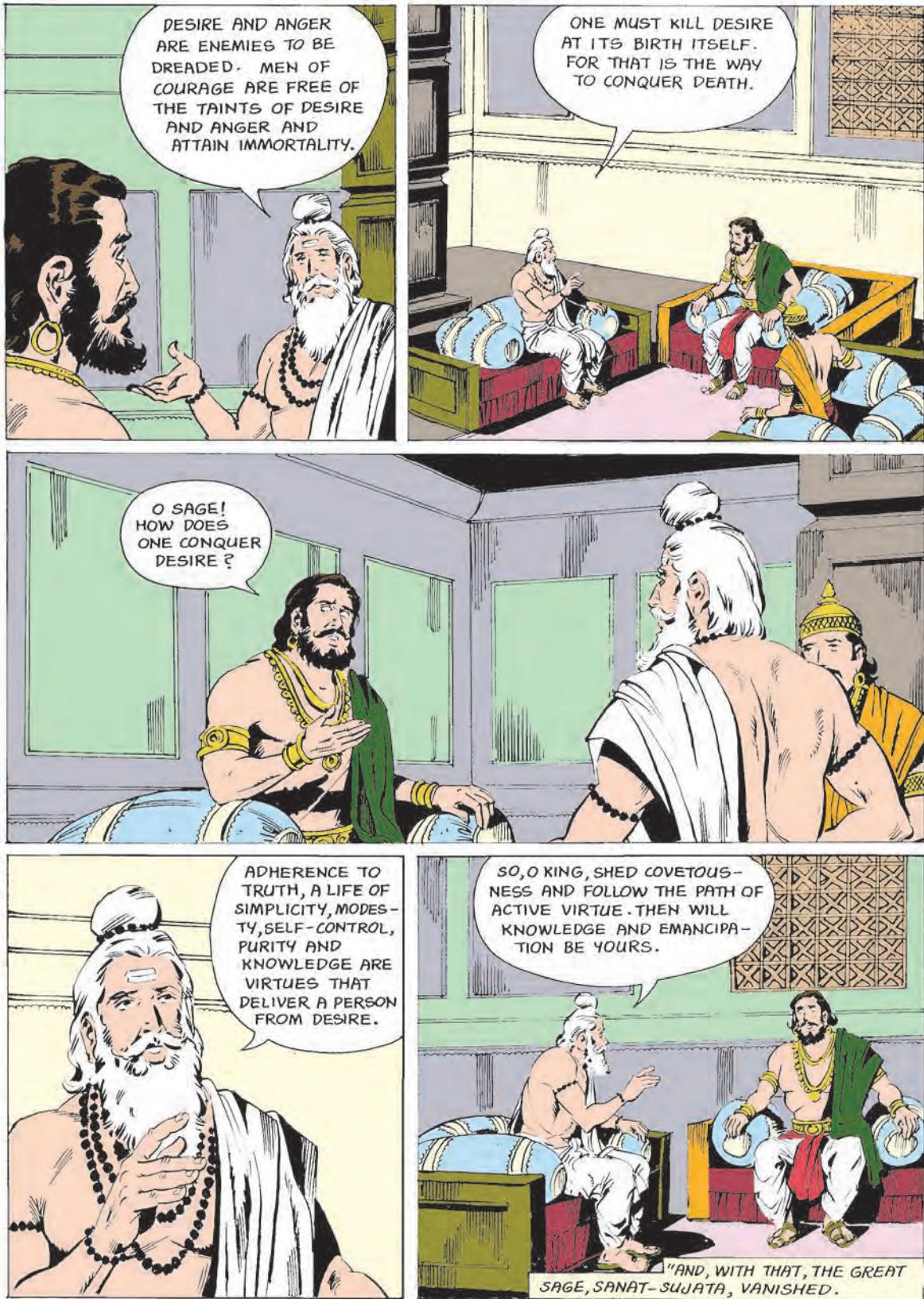
O KING, BOTH VIEWS ARE TRUE.



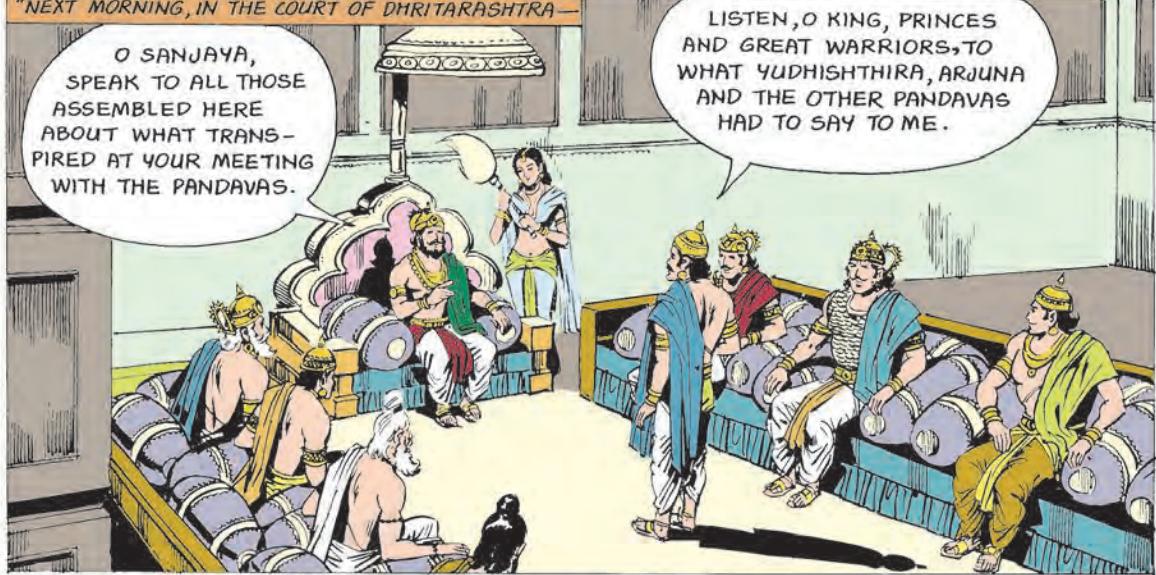
SOME SCHOLARS ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPREMACY OF DEATH, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ATTACHMENT TO WORDLY MATTERS IS DEATH AND DETACHMENT IS IMMORTALITY.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

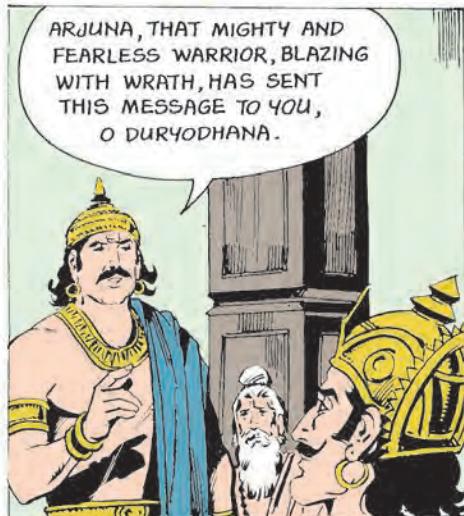


"NEXT MORNING, IN THE COURT OF DHRITARASHTRA—



O SANJAYA,
SPEAK TO ALL THOSE
ASSEMBLED HERE
ABOUT WHAT TRANS-
PIRED AT YOUR MEETING
WITH THE PANDAVAS.

LISTEN, O KING, PRINCES
AND GREAT WARRIORS, TO
WHAT YUDHISHTHIRA, ARJUNA
AND THE OTHER PANDAVAS
HAD TO SAY TO ME.



"ARJUNA SAID—

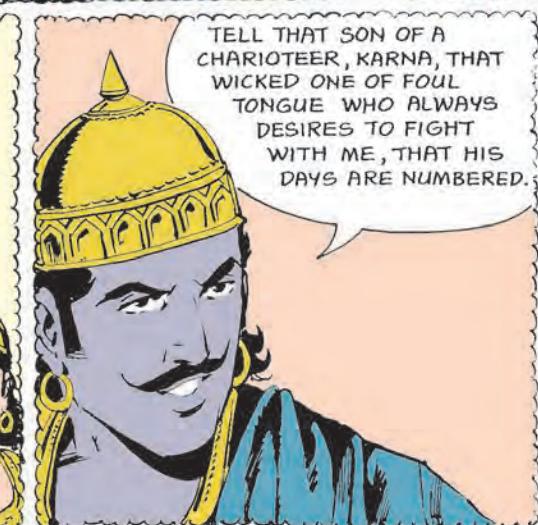
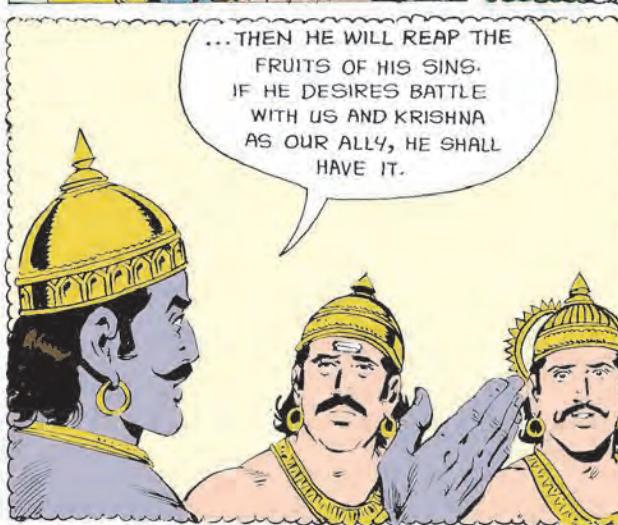


IF DHRITARASHTRA'S SON
DOES NOT SURRENDER HALF
THE KINGDOM TO YUDHIS-
THIRA...



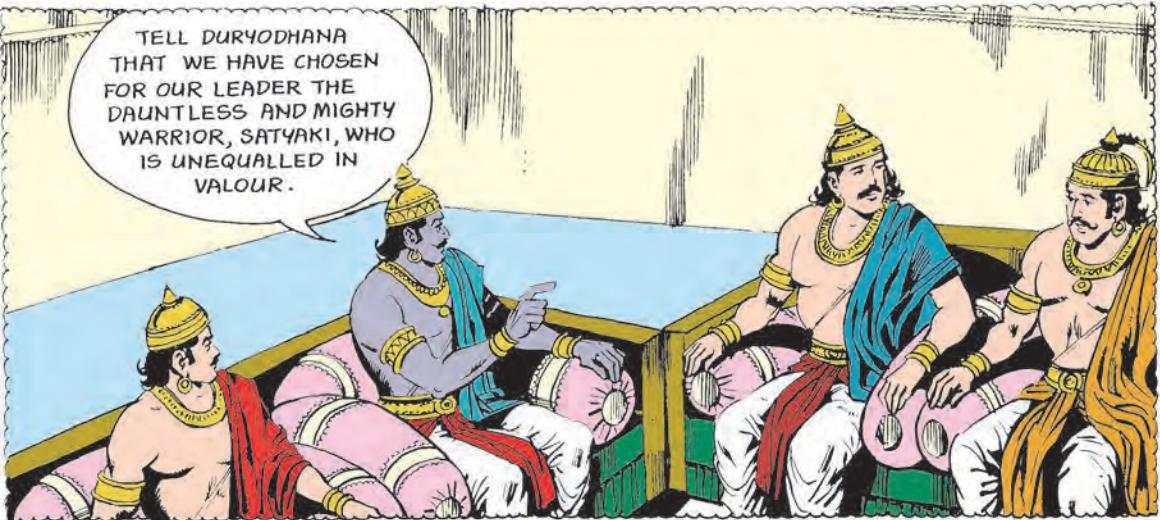
...THEN HE WILL REAP THE
FRUITS OF HIS SINS.
IF HE DESIRES BATTLE
WITH US AND KRISHNA
AS OUR ALLY, HE SHALL
HAVE IT.

TELL THAT SON OF A
CHARIOOTEER, KARNA, THAT
WICKED ONE OF FOUL
TONGUE WHO ALWAYS
DESIDES TO FIGHT
WITH ME, THAT HIS
DAYS ARE NUMBERED.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

TELL DURYODHANA
THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN
FOR OUR LEADER THE
DAUNTLESS AND MIGHTY
WARRIOR, SATYAKI, WHO
IS UNEQUALLED IN
VALOUR.



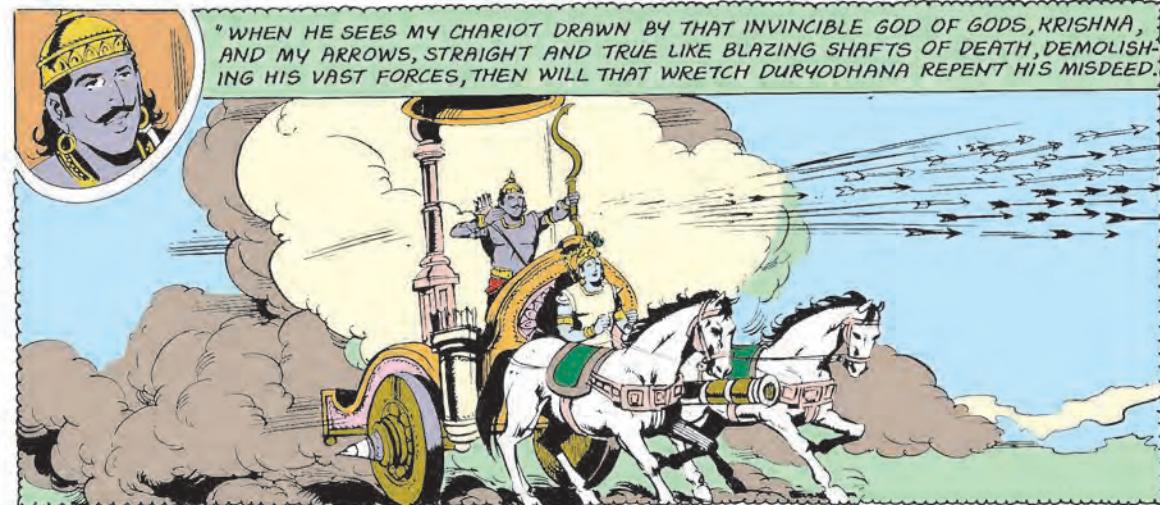
"WHEN HE SEES THE POWERFUL BHEEMA FELLING THE ELEPHANTS OF THE KAURAVA ARMY RIGHT AND LEFT, THEN WILL DURYODHANA REPENT HIS GOING TO WAR WITH US INSTEAD OF SUGGING FOR PEACE."



"WHEN ABHIMANYU WILL SHOWER ARROWS OF DEATH ON THE KAURAVA ARMY, THEN WILL DURYODHANA REPENT HIS RASH ACTION."



"WHEN HE SEES MY CHARIOT DRAWN BY THAT INVINCIBLE GOD OF GODS, KRISHNA, AND MY ARROWS, STRAIGHT AND TRUE LIKE BLAZING SHAFTS OF DEATH, DEMOLISHING HIS VAST FORCES, THEN WILL THAT WRETCH DURYODHANA REPENT HIS MISDEED."



"HEARING THE WORDS OF SANJAYA, BHEESHMA SAID —

KNOW, O DURYODHANA, THAT KRISHNA AND ARJUNA ARE THE INVINCIBLE NARA AND NARAYANA. IF YOU FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF KARNA, THE LOW-BORN SON OF A CHARIOTEER, AND YOUR VILE BROTHER DUHSHASANA, YOUR KINSMEN WILL SOON PERISH.



"KARNA RETALIATED —

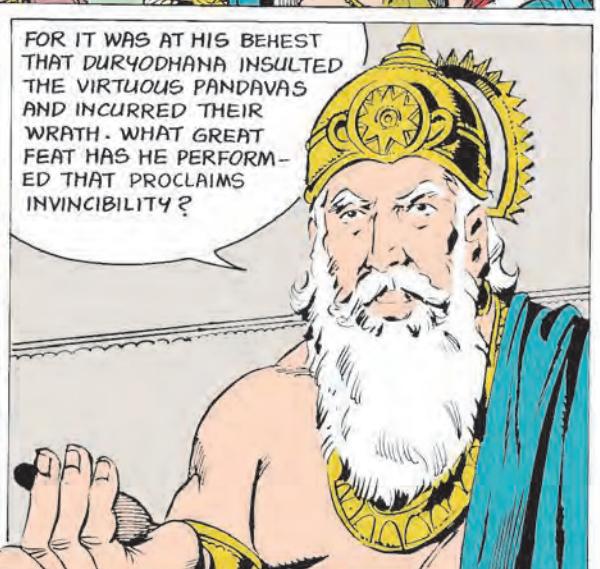
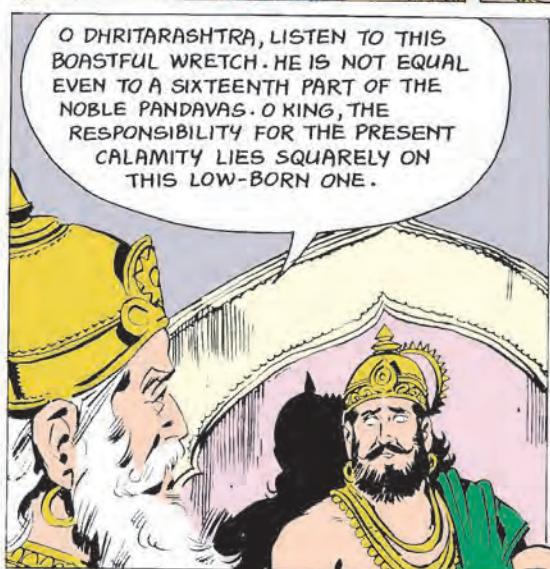
IT IS UNBECOMING OF YOU, O BLESSED GRANDSIRE, TO TALK IN THIS MANNER.

I HAVE FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THE DHARMA OF THE WARRIOR. HOW HAVE I MISBEHAVED THAT YOU SHOULD SO REBUKE ME? THE KAURAVAS SEE NO EVIL IN ME AND I HAVE DONE THEM NO ILL.

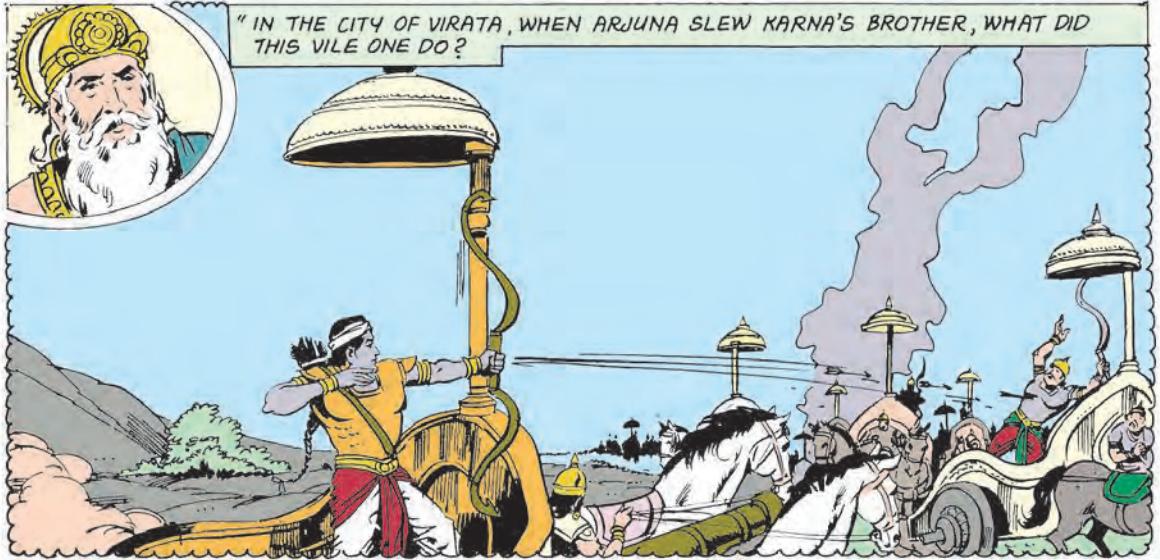


O DHRITARASHTRA, LISTEN TO THIS BOASTFUL WRETCH. HE IS NOT EQUAL EVEN TO A SIXTEENTH PART OF THE NOBLE PANDAVAS. O KING, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT CALAMITY LIES SQUARELY ON THIS LOW-BORN ONE.

FOR IT WAS AT HIS BEHEST THAT DURYODHANA INSULTED THE VIRTUOUS PANDAVAS AND INCURRED THEIR WRATH. WHAT GREAT FEAT HAS HE PERFORMED THAT PROCLAIMS INVINCIBILITY?

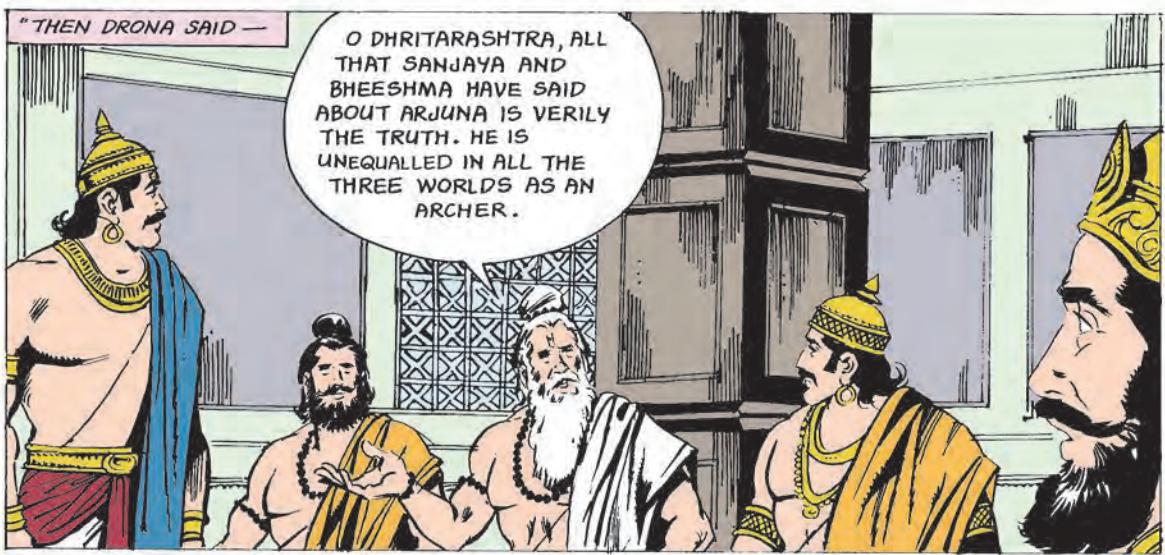


DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD



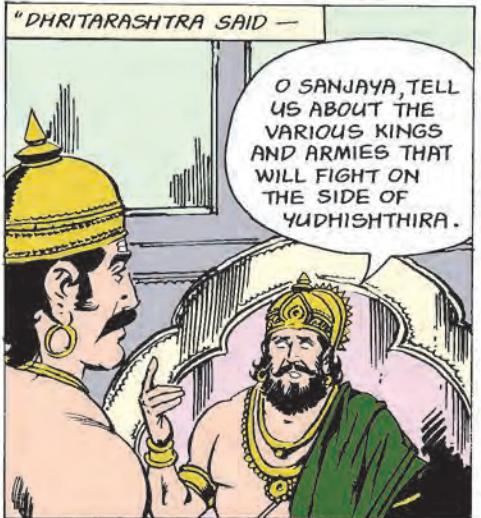
"THEN DRONA SAID —

O DHRITARASHTRA, ALL THAT SANJAYA AND BHEESMA HAVE SAID ABOUT ARJUNA IS VERILY THE TRUTH. HE IS UNEQUALLED IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS AS AN ARCHER.



"DHRITARASHTRA SAID —

O SANJAYA, TELL US ABOUT THE VARIOUS KINGS AND ARMIES THAT WILL FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF YUDHISHTHIRA.



"ON HEARING THIS, SANJAYA FELL INTO A SWOON.



O KING, TRULY THOSE ARMIES MUST BE VERY MIGHTY, FOR IN HIS ANXIETY SANJAYA HAS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.



"PRESENTLY —

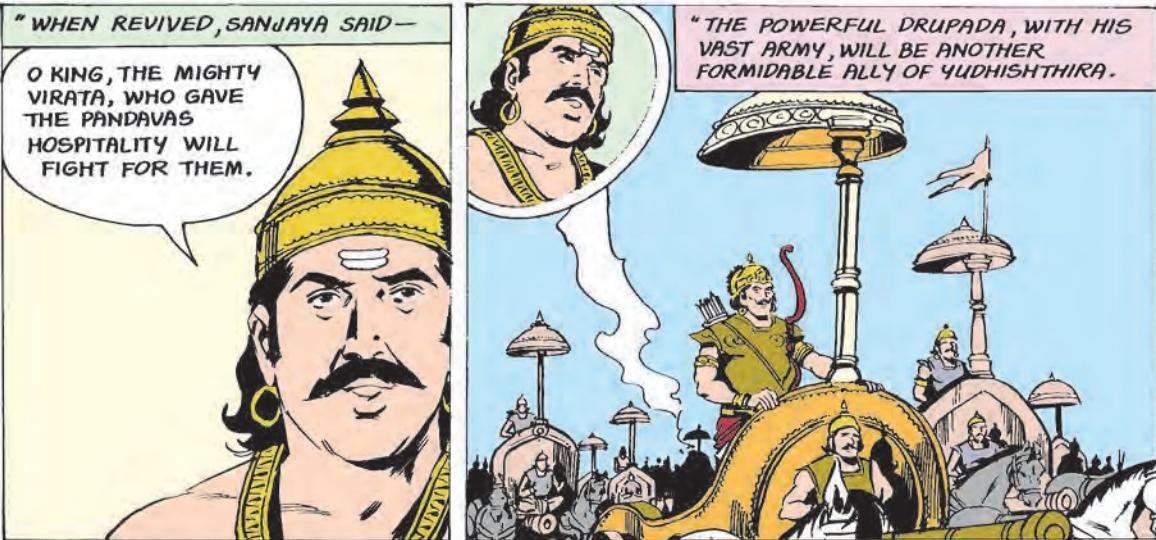
O VIRTUOUS SANJAYA, DO NOT BE AFRAID. TELL US ABOUT YUDHISHTHIRA'S ALLIES.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

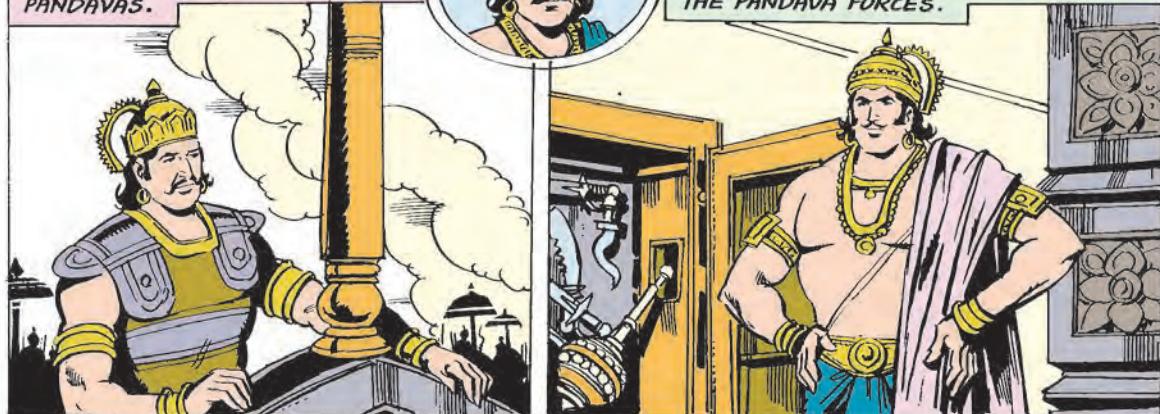
"WHEN REVIVED, SANJAYA SAID—

O KING, THE MIGHTY VIRATA, WHO GAVE THE PANDAVAS HOSPITALITY WILL FIGHT FOR THEM.



"THE DAUNTLESS PANCHALA PRINCE, SHIKHANDI, WHO WISHES TO SLAY BHEESHMA WILL FIGHT FOR THE PANDAVAS.

"THE LION OF THE VRISHNI RACE, CHYUDHANA, WELL VERSED IN THE USE OF ALL WEAPONS, WILL STRENGTHEN THE PANDAVA FORCES.

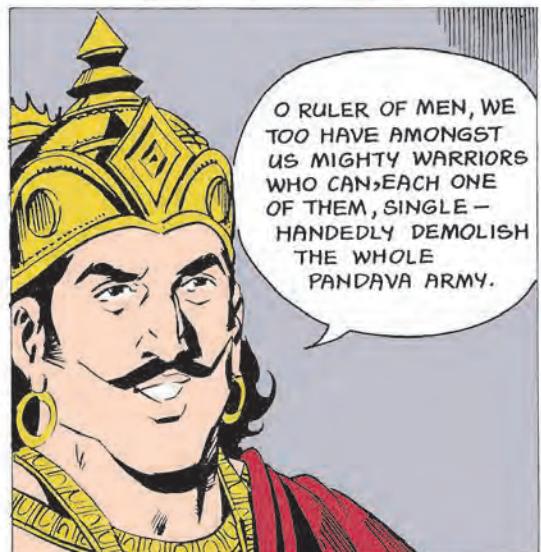
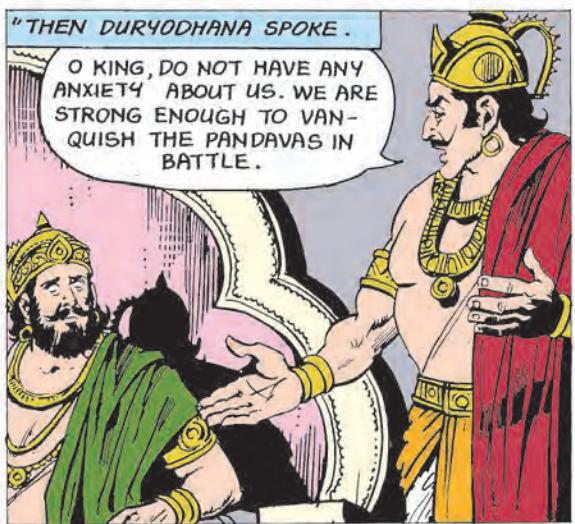
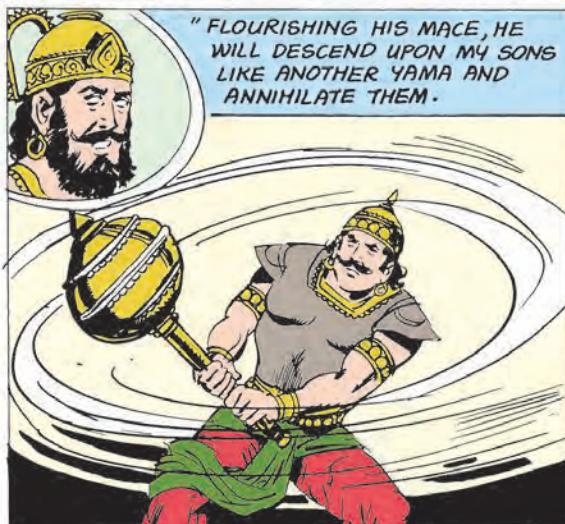
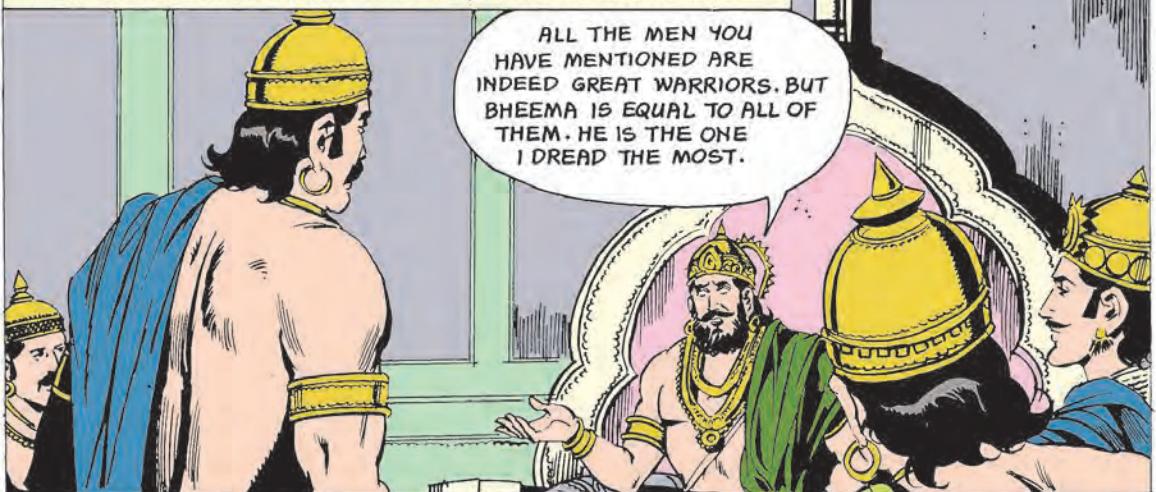


"SAHADEVA, THE MIGHTY SON OF JARASANDHA, THE INTREPID DHRISHTAKETU AND THE POWERFUL KING OF THE CHEDIS WITH HIS VAST ARMY WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE PANDAVA RANKS.

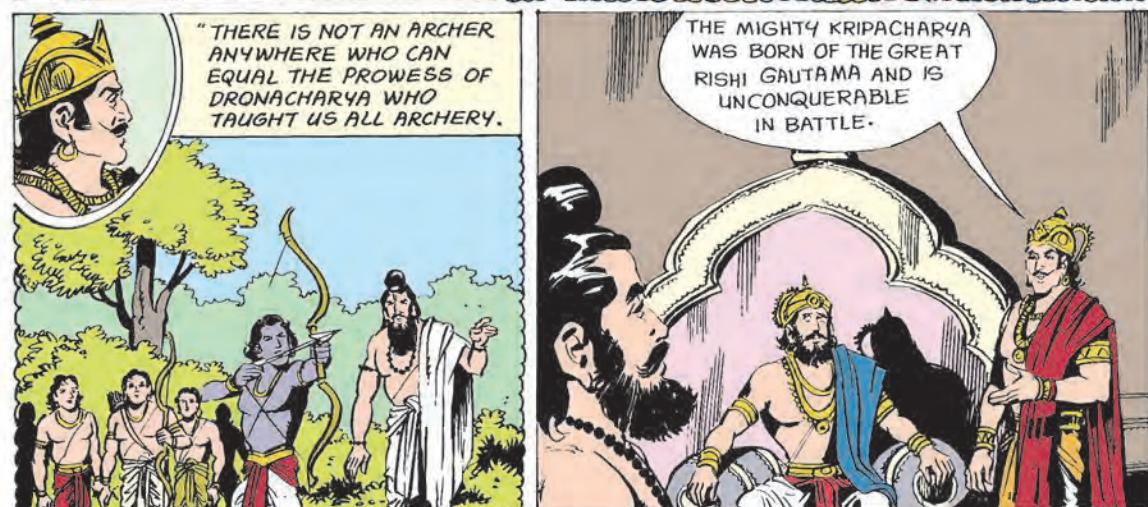
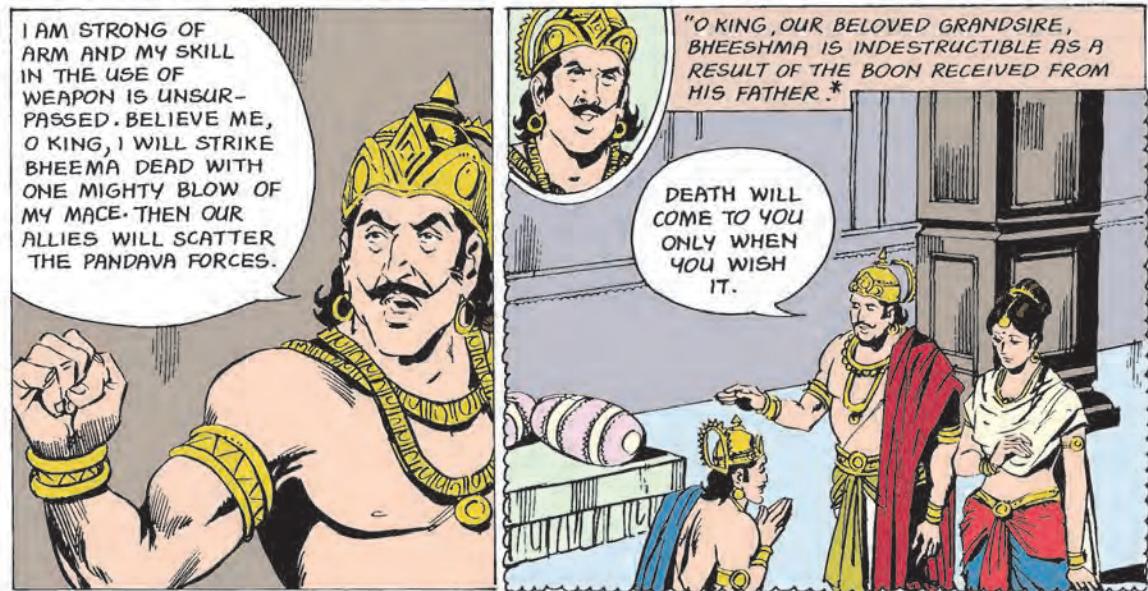
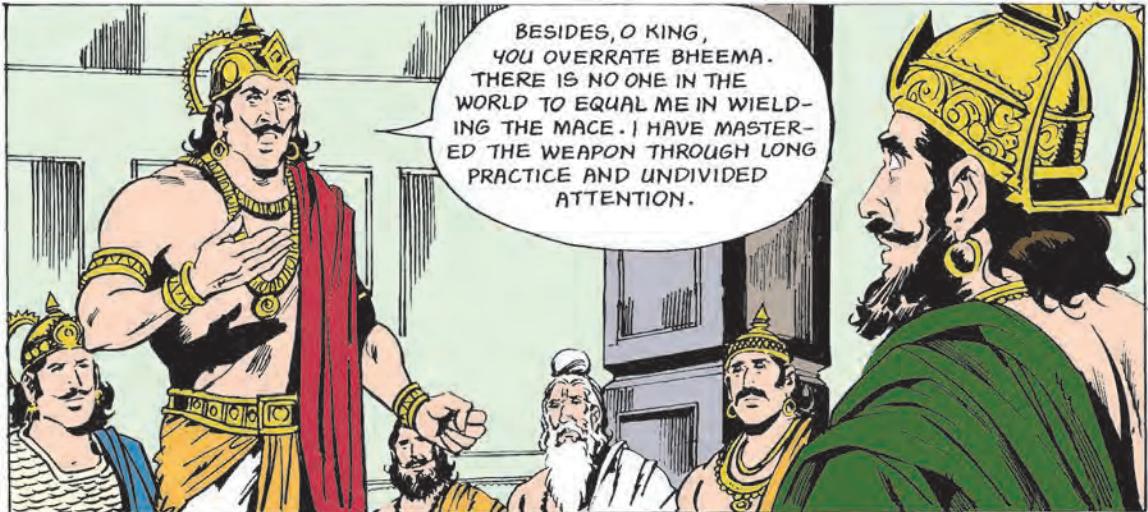


"GREATLY DISTURBED BY THIS ACCOUNT, DHRITARASHTRA SAID—

ALL THE MEN YOU
HAVE MENTIONED ARE
INDEED GREAT WARRIORs. BUT
BHEEMA IS EQUAL TO ALL OF
THEM. HE IS THE ONE
I DREAD THE MOST.



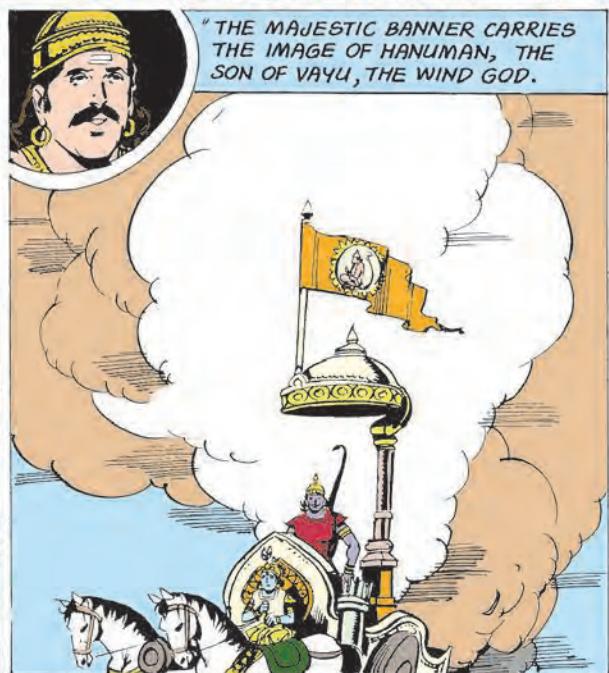
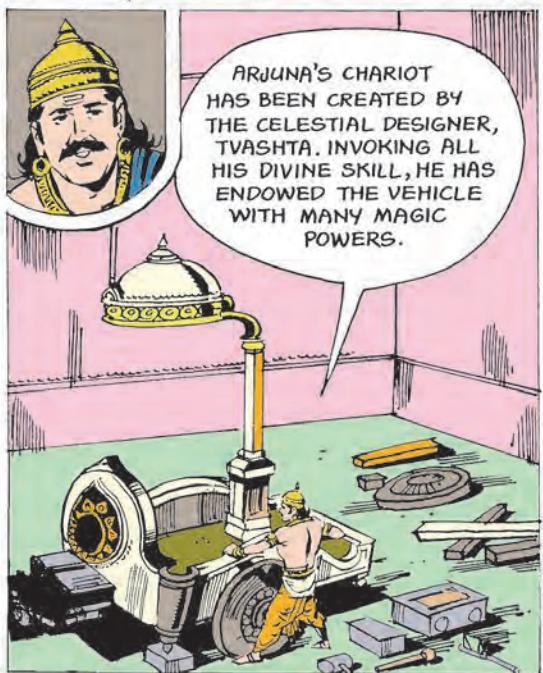
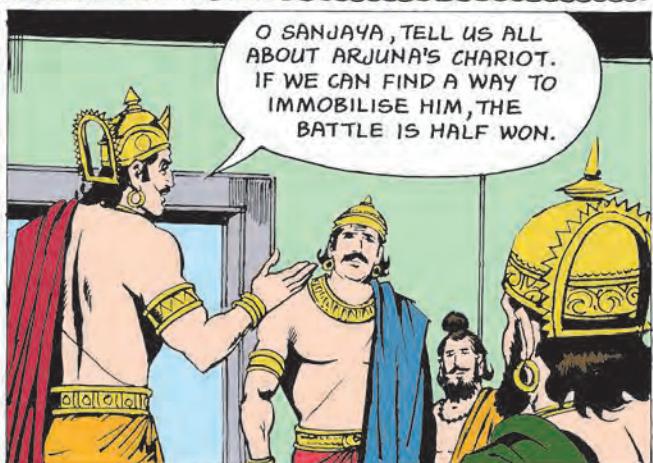
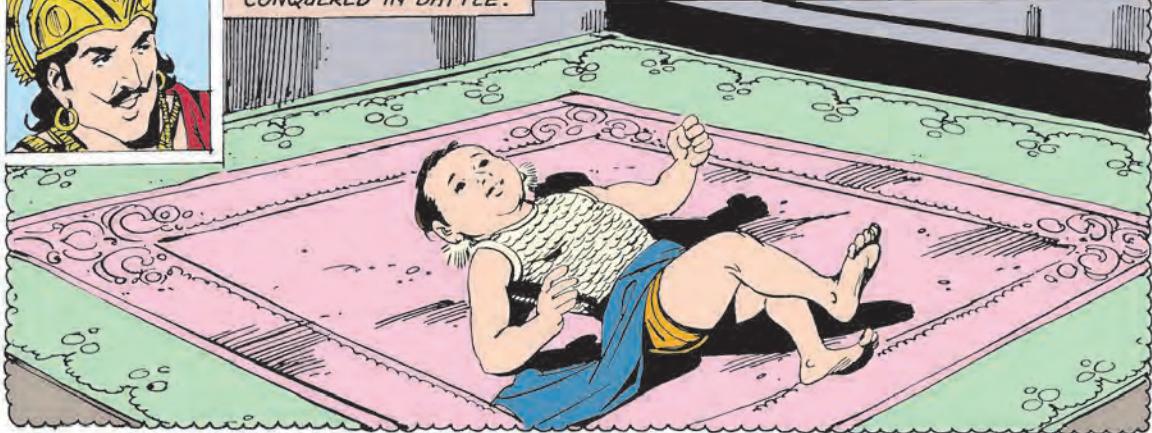
DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

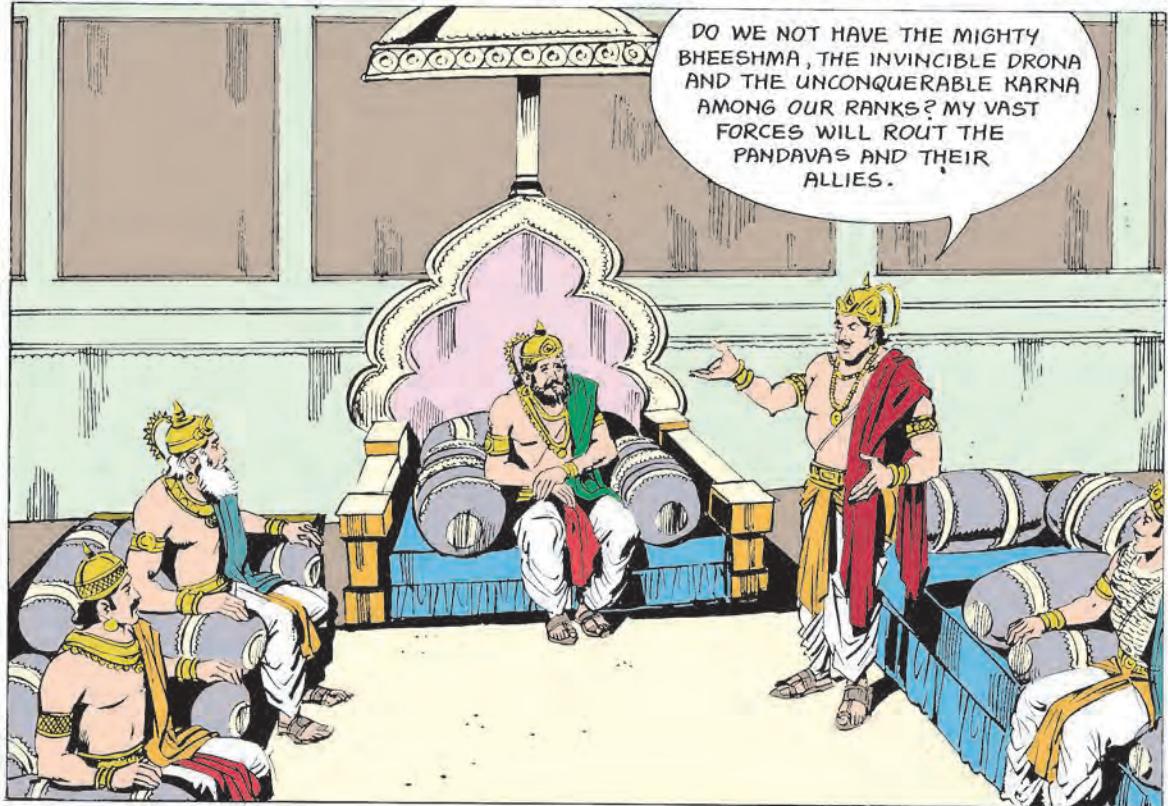
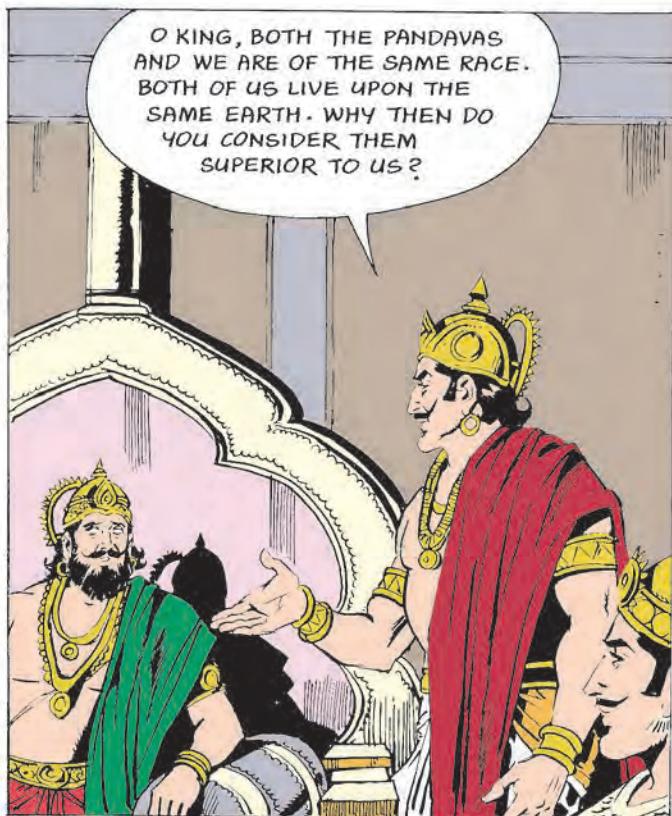
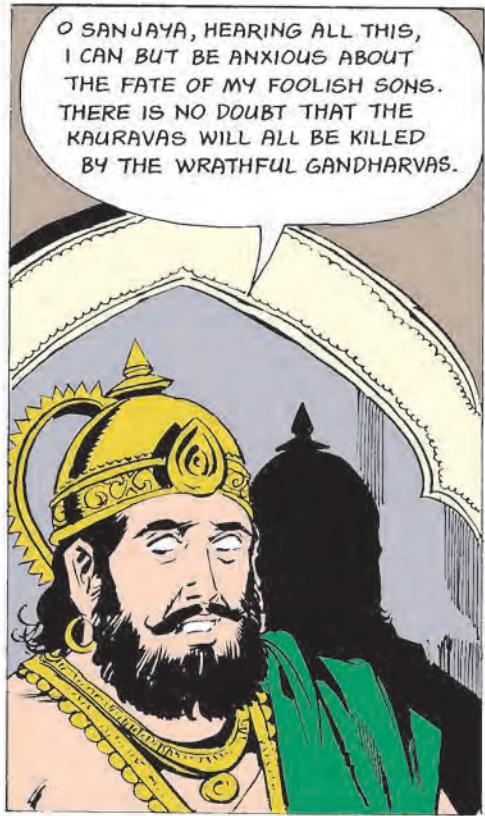


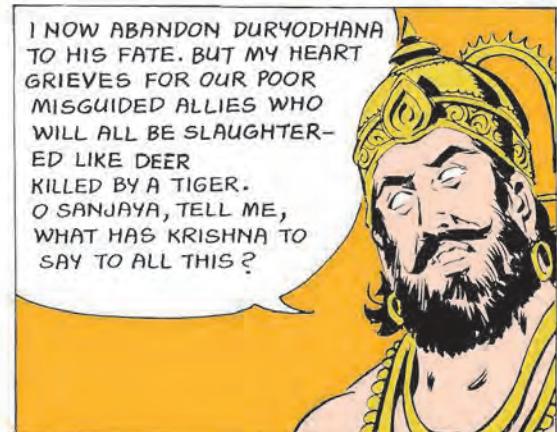
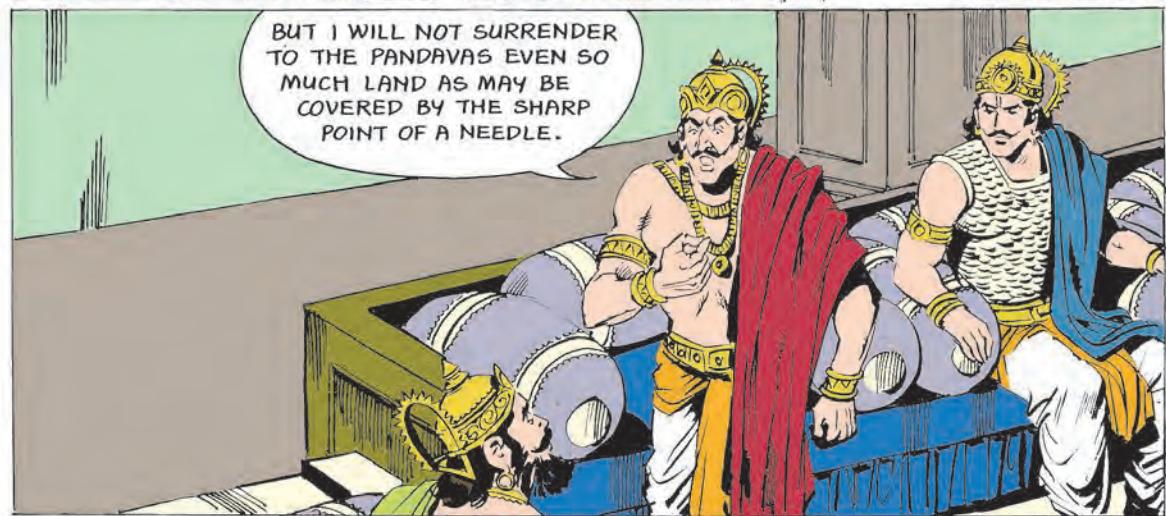
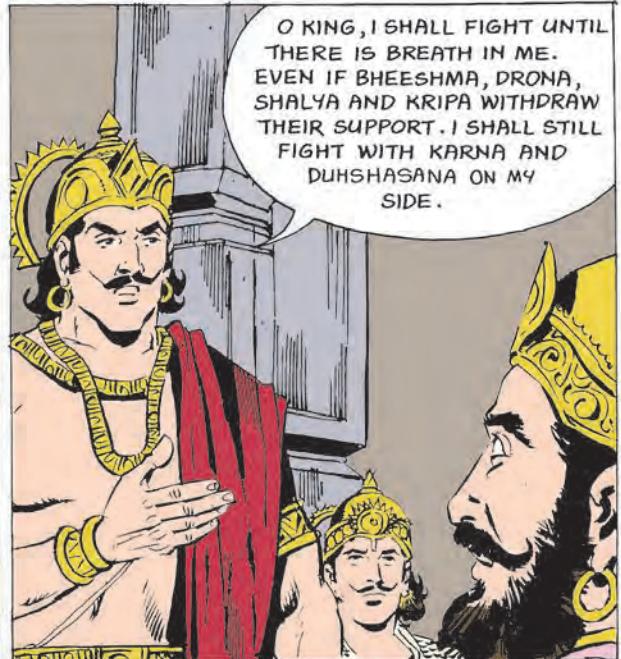
* BHEESHMA



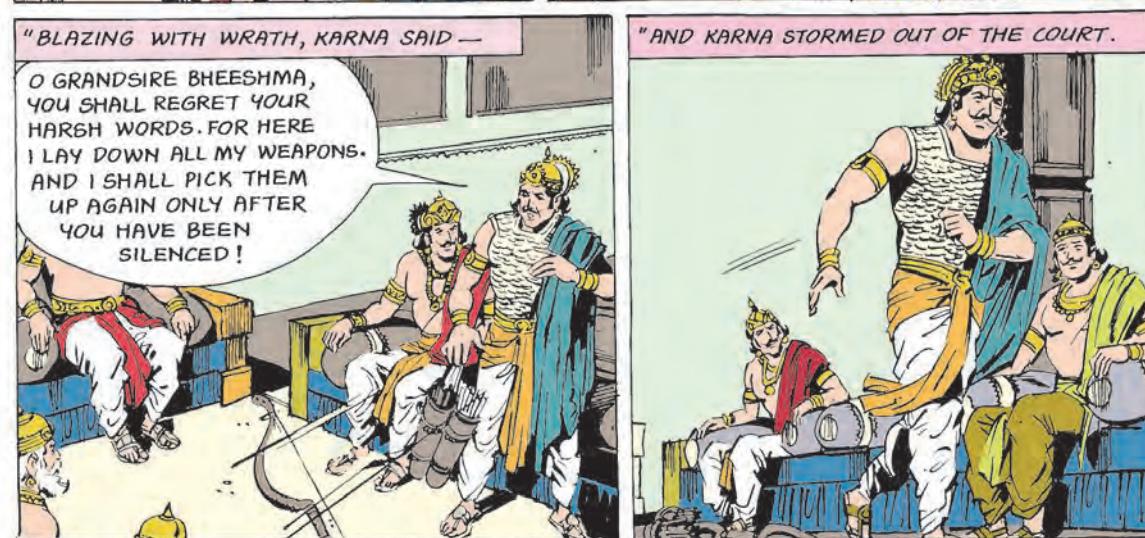
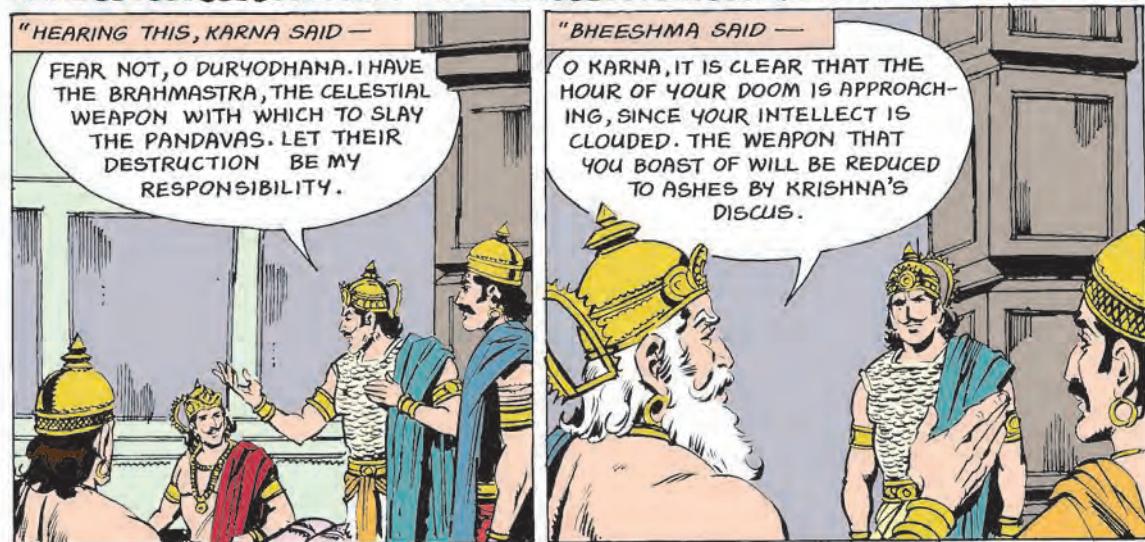
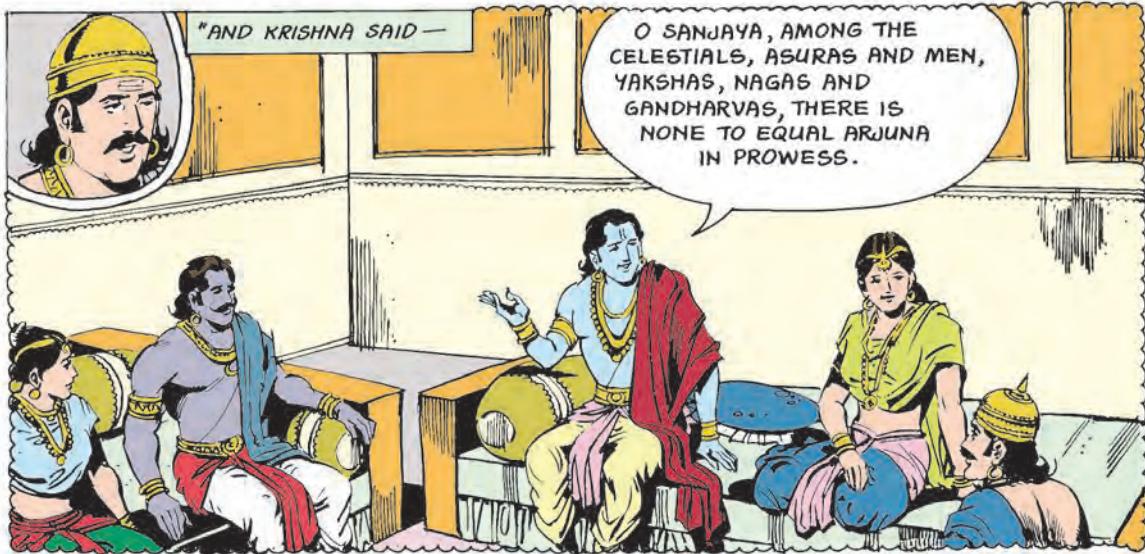
"AND KARNA WAS BORN WITH IMPENETRABLE COAT MAIL, AND HE CANNOT BE CONQUERED IN BATTLE."







DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD



"BHEESMA LAUGHED ALOUD AND SAID—

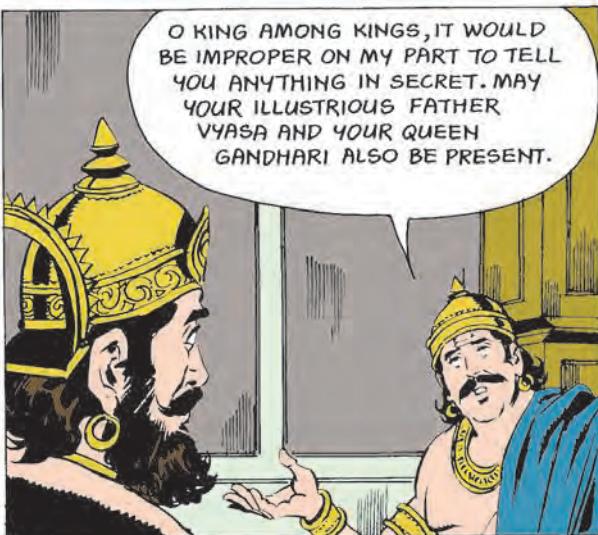
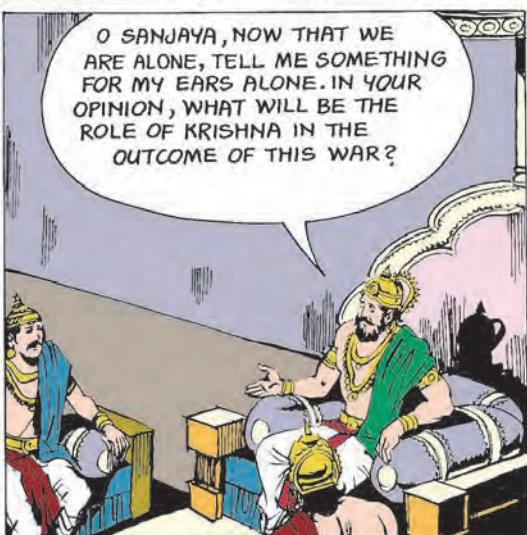
HOW CAN THE SON OF A CHARIOTEER UNDERTAKE SUCH A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY? ALL HE CAN DO IS BOAST.

AS THE STUPID DURYODHANA SEEMS BENT ON WAR, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION.



O SANJAYA, NOW THAT WE ARE ALONE, TELL ME SOMETHING FOR MY EARS ALONE. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF KRISHNA IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS WAR?

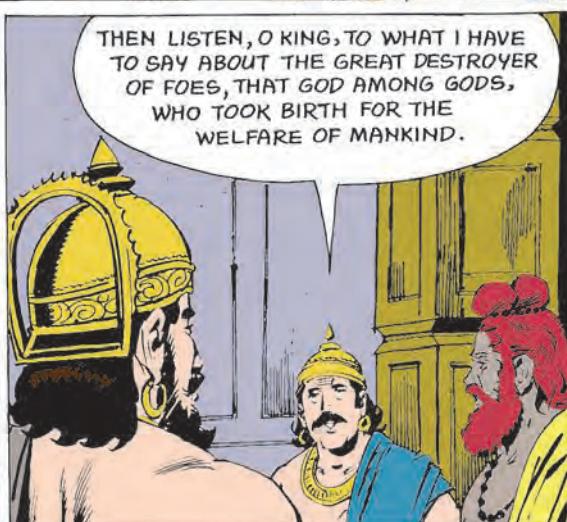
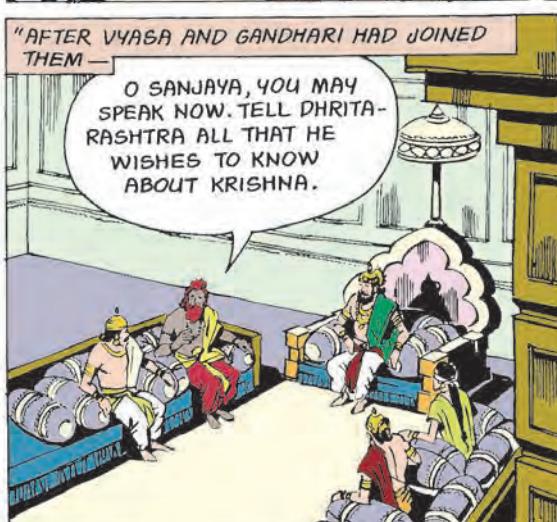
O KING AMONG KINGS, IT WOULD BE IMPROPER ON MY PART TO TELL YOU ANYTHING IN SECRET. MAY YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER VYASA AND YOUR QUEEN GANDHARI ALSO BE PRESENT.



"AFTER VYASA AND GANDHARI HAD JOINED THEM—

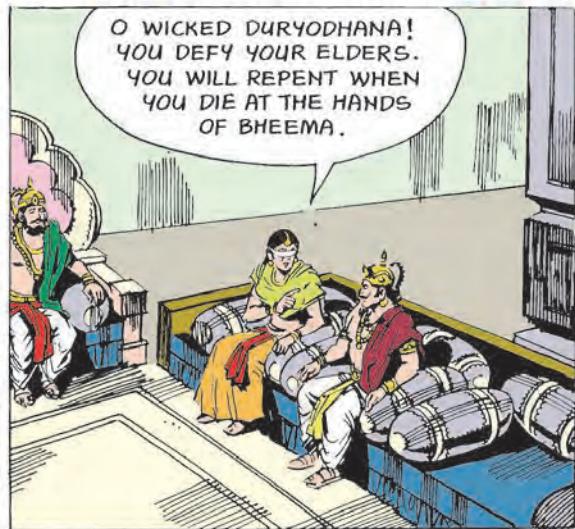
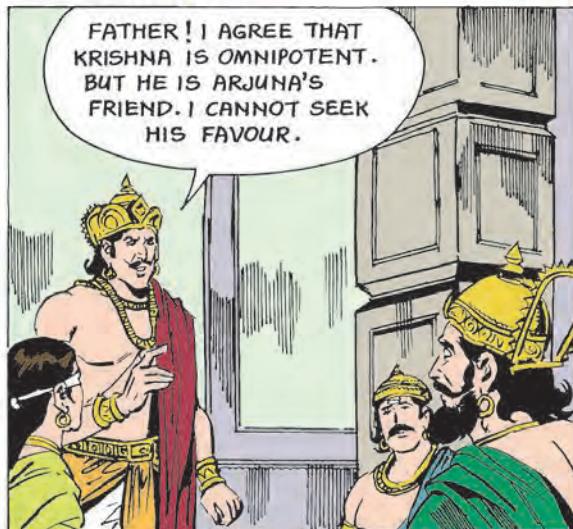
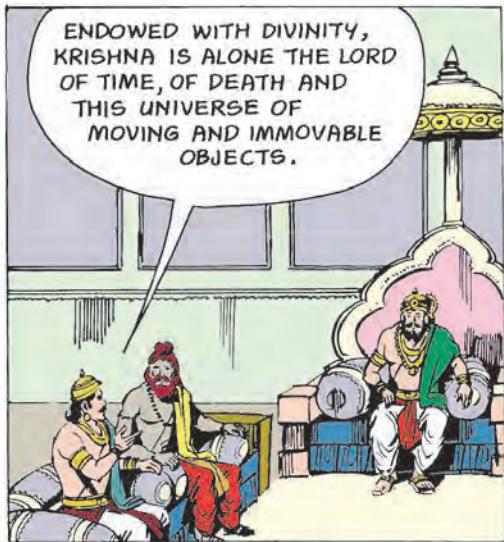
O SANJAYA, YOU MAY SPEAK NOW. TELL DHRITARASHTRA ALL THAT HE WISHES TO KNOW ABOUT KRISHNA.

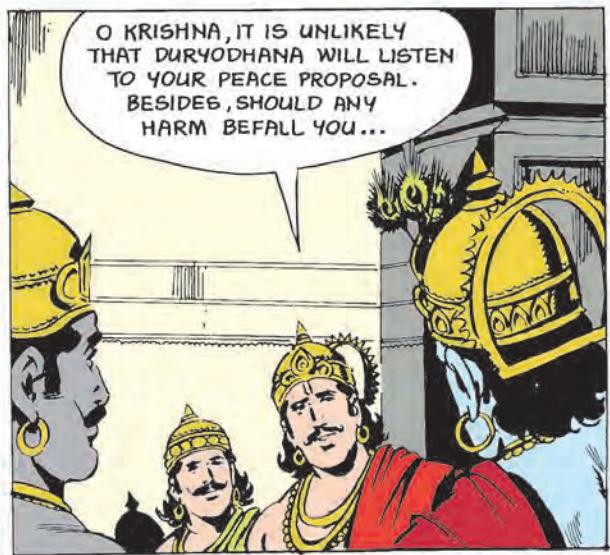
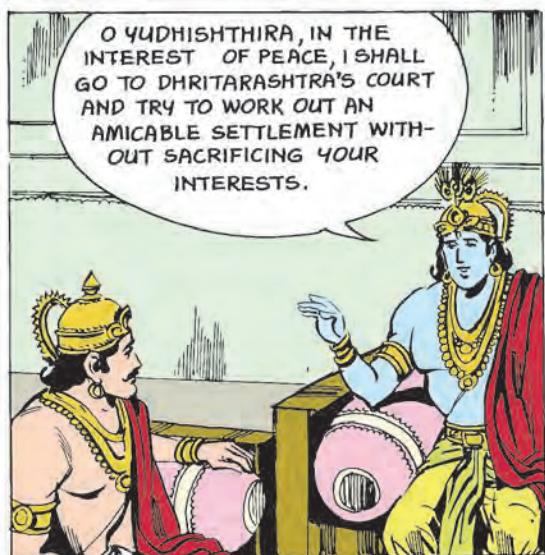
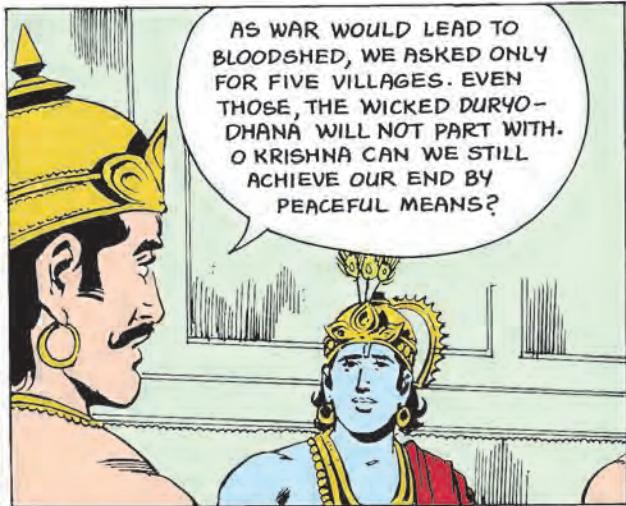
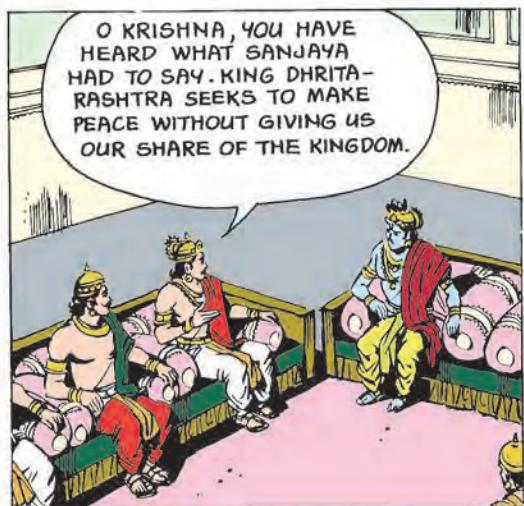
THEN LISTEN, O KING, TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE GREAT DESTROYER OF FOES, THAT GOD AMONG GODS, WHO TOOK BIRTH FOR THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD







"KRISHNA HELD UP HIS HAND.

SPEAK NOT OF ANYONE DOING ME HARM, O YUDHISHTHIRA. IF ANY OF THE KURUS TRIES TO LAY HANDS ON ME, I CAN CONSUME THEM ALL. BESIDES, THERE IS A SPECIAL REASON WHY I WANT TO GO TO HASTINAPURA.

REFLECT, O YUDHISHTHIRA, ON THIS. MY GOING THERE WILL ABSOLVE US OF ALL BLAME. NOBODY WILL SAY AFTERWARDS THAT WE DID NOT TRY OUR UTMOST FOR PEACE.



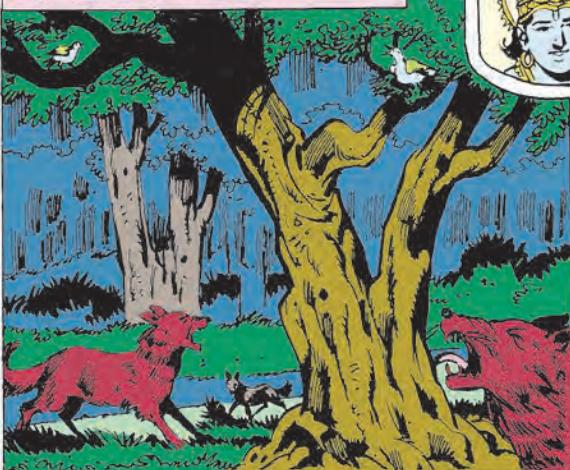
DO WHAT YOU THINK RIGHT, O KRISHNA. I KNOW THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE OUR WELFARE AT HEART.

"KRISHNA SAID —

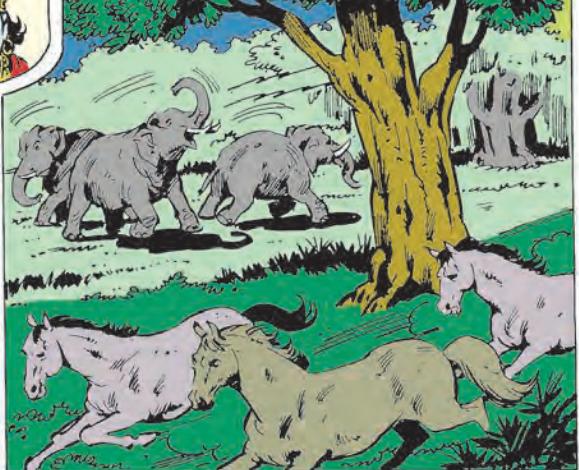


WHILE I AM AWAY, O KING, YOU MUST PREPARE FOR WAR, FOR I PERCEIVE OMENS THAT POINT TO IT.

"BIRDS AND ANIMALS HOWL AND SCREECH IN THE NIGHT.



"WILD ELEPHANTS AND HORSES ASSUME STRANGE FORMS.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

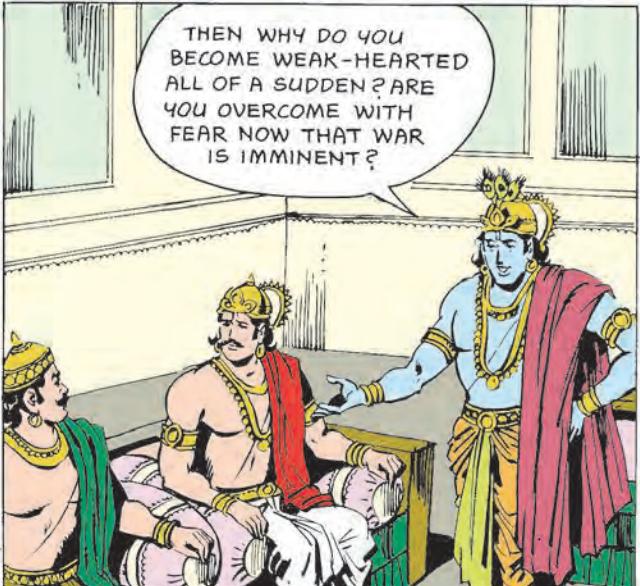
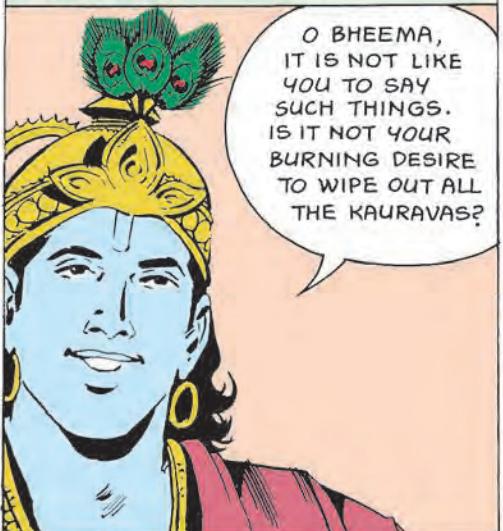
"HEARING ALL THIS, A GREATLY TROUBLED BHEEMA SAID —

O KRISHNA, DO ALL
YOU CAN TO MAKE PEACE.
STOP THE WANTON BLOODSHED
THAT WILL RESULT FROM WAR.
O KRISHNA, WE DO NOT WANT
TO INCUR THE SIN OF
KILLING OUR RELATIVES.



"HEARING BHEEMA'S WORDS, KRISHNA
LAUGHED ALOUD AND SAID —

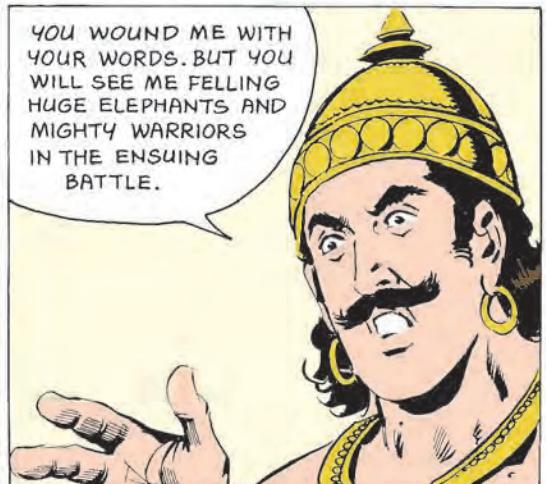
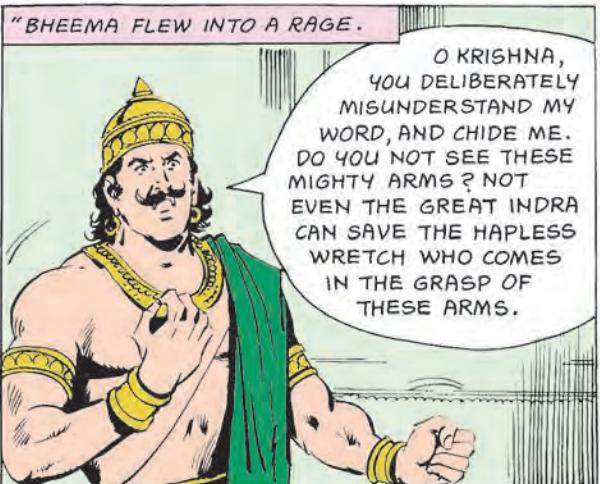
O BHEEMA,
IT IS NOT LIKE
YOU TO SAY
SUCH THINGS.
IS IT NOT YOUR
BURNING DESIRE
TO WIPE OUT ALL
THE KAURAVAS?



"BHEEMA FLEW INTO A RAGE.

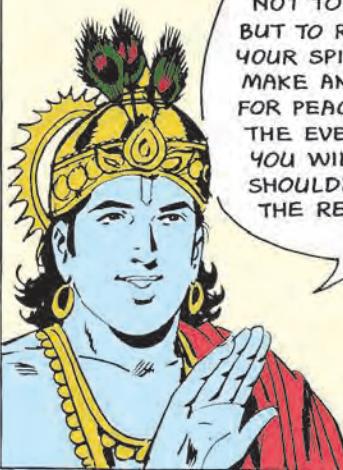
O KRISHNA,
YOU DELIBERATELY
MISUNDERSTAND MY
WORD, AND CHIDE ME.
DO YOU NOT SEE THESE
MIGHTY ARMS? NOT
EVEN THE GREAT INDRA
CAN SAVE THE HAPLESS
WRETCH WHO COMES
IN THE GRASP OF
THESE ARMS.

YOU WOUND ME WITH
YOUR WORDS. BUT YOU
WILL SEE ME FELLING
HUGE ELEPHANTS AND
MIGHTY WARRIOR
IN THE ENSUING
BATTLE.



"KRISHNA SAID —

PEACE, O BHEEMA. MY INTENTION WAS NOT TO HURT YOU, BUT TO REKINDLE YOUR SPIRIT. I WILL MAKE AN EFFORT FOR PEACE BUT IN THE EVENT OF WAR, YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOULDER MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY.



"ARJUNA SAID —

O KRISHNA, THE NOBLE YUDHISHTHIRA HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU WHAT SHOULD BE SAID. WE HAVE PLACED OUR TRUST IN YOU. I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR MISSION.



HOWEVER, DURYODHANA HAS BEEN UNFAIR TO US AND HAS DISGRACED DRAUPADI. I DOUBT WHETHER HE WILL BE AMENABLE TO OFFERS OF PEACE NOW.



O ARJUNA, I SHALL DO ALL THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.



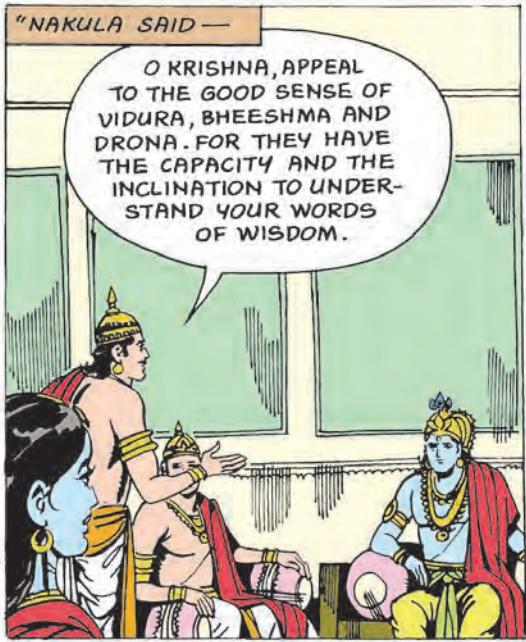
BUT FAILING THAT, I MUST THINK OF HOW THE EVIL DURYODHANA MUST BE PUNISHED.



DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD

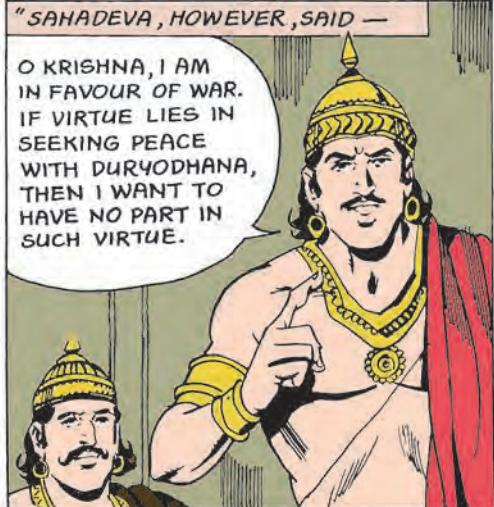
"NAKULA SAID —

O KRISHNA, APPEAL TO THE GOOD SENSE OF VIDURA, BHEESHMA AND DRONA. FOR THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY AND THE INCLINATION TO UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS OF WISDOM.

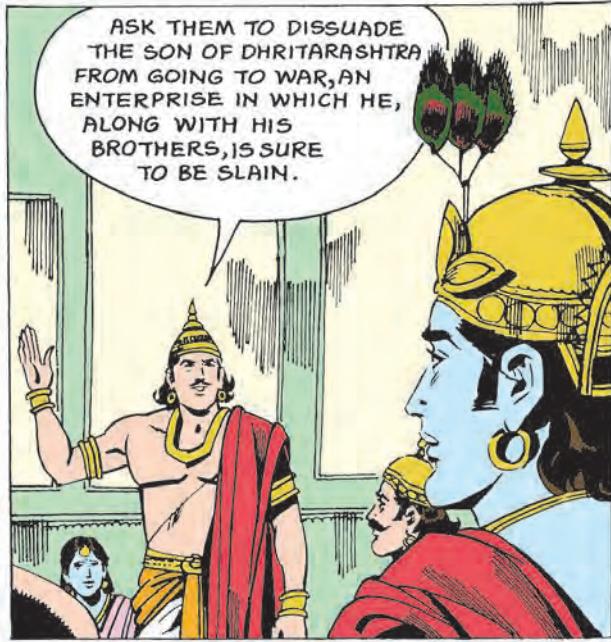


"SAHADEVA, HOWEVER, SAID —

O KRISHNA, I AM IN FAVOUR OF WAR. IF VIRTUE LIES IN SEEKING PEACE WITH DURYODHANA, THEN I WANT TO HAVE NO PART IN SUCH VIRTUE.

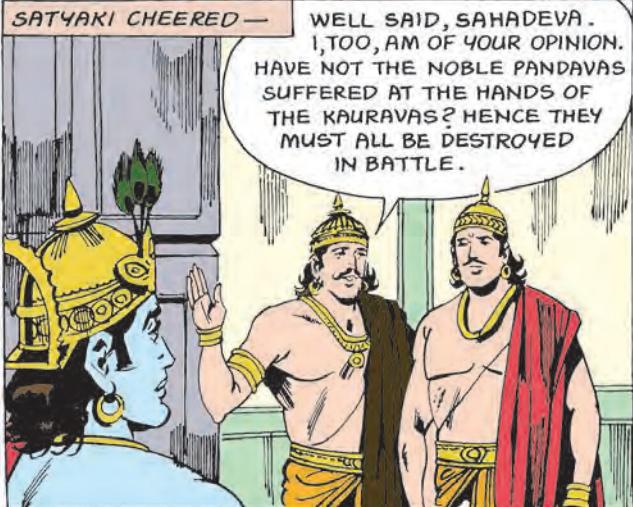


ASK THEM TO DISSUADE THE SON OF DHRITARASHTRA FROM GOING TO WAR, AN ENTERPRISE IN WHICH HE, ALONG WITH HIS BROTHERS, IS SURE TO BE SLAIN.

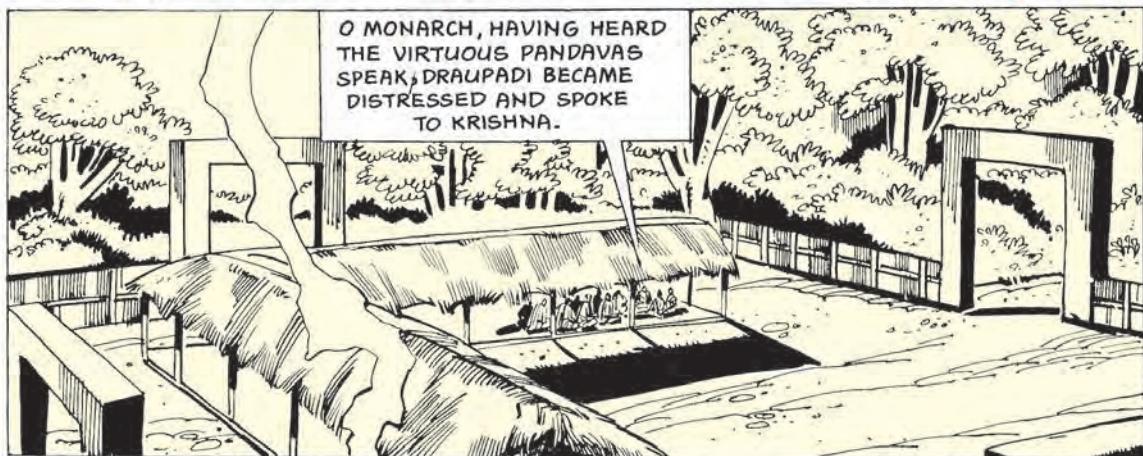


SATYAKI CHEERED —

WELL SAID, SAHADEVA. I, TOO, AM OF YOUR OPINION. HAVE NOT THE NOBLE PANDAVAS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE KAURAVAS? HENCE THEY MUST ALL BE DESTROYED IN BATTLE.



O MONARCH, HAVING HEARD THE VIRTUOUS PANDAVAS SPEAK, DRAUPADI BECAME DISTRESSED AND SPOKE TO KRISHNA.



"DRAUPADI SAID —

O KRISHNA,
YOU KNOW BY WHAT
DECET MY VIRTUOUS
HUSBANDS WERE
DEPRIVED OF THE KINGDOM
THAT THEY THEMSELVES
HAD WON FOR THE
GLORY OF THE KURU
RACE.

O KRISHNA, I, THE
DAUGHTER OF THE
GREAT KING DRUPADA,
SISTER OF THE POWER-
FUL DHRISHTADYUMNA
AND WIFE OF THE
MIGHTY PANDAVAS,
HAVE BEEN MADE
TO SUFFER BY THE
KAURAVAS.

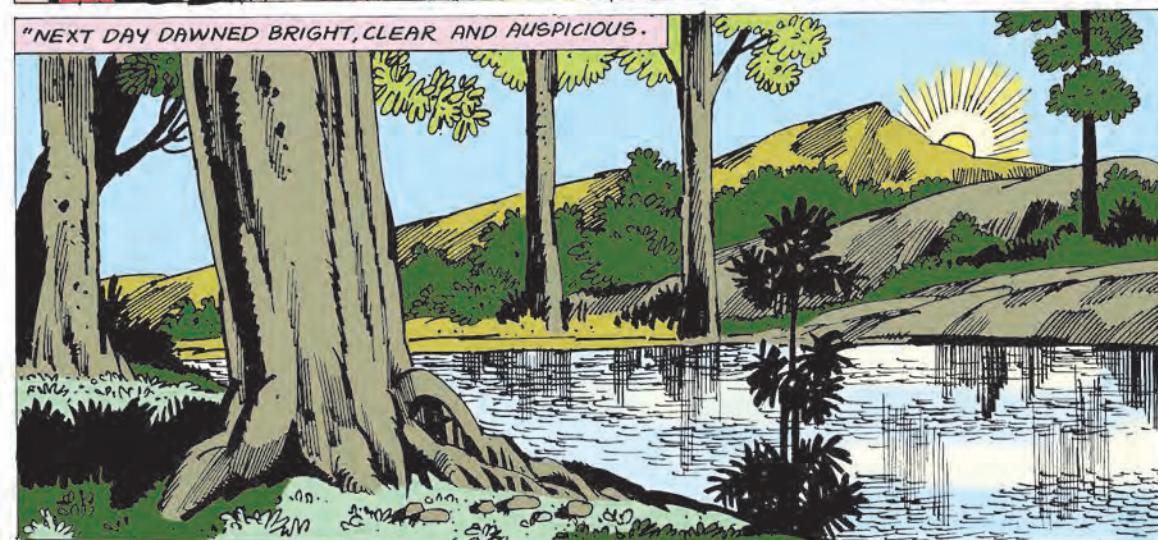
"DRAGGED INTO THE
ASSEMBLY, I WAS TREATED AS
A SLAVE BY THE WICKED SONS
OF DHRITARASHTRA.

"DRAUPADI'S EYES BURNED WITH FURY.

THESE ARE
THE TRESSES OF
HAIR ON WHICH THE
VILE DUHSHASANA
LAID HIS EVIL
HANDS.

"HER VOICE QUIVERED AS SHE SPOKE —

O KRISHNA, THE KAURAVAS
MUST BE MADE TO PAY FOR
THEIR SINS. I SHALL KNOW
NO PEACE UNTIL THEY
HAVE ALL BEEN SLAIN.



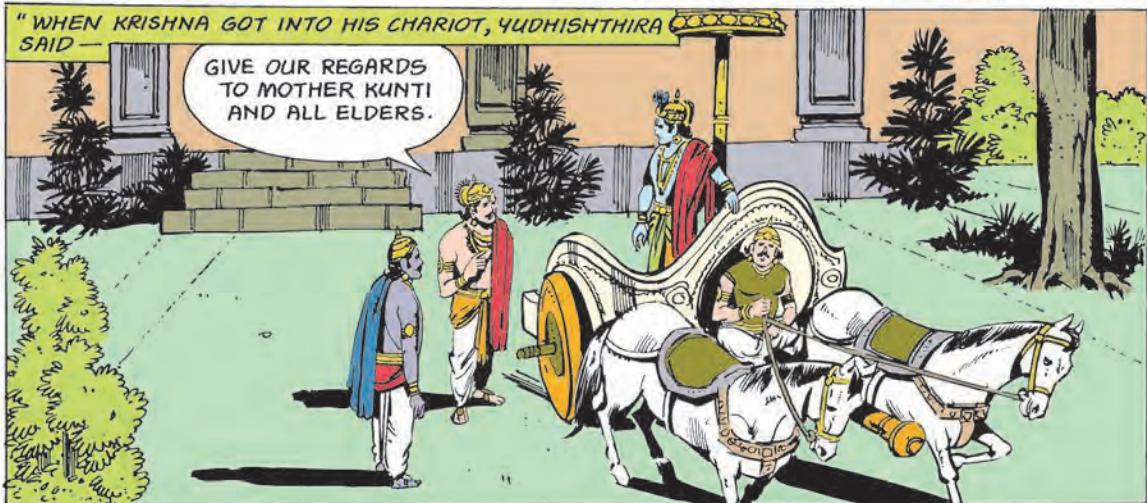
"RISING EARLY, KRISHNA WORSHIPPED THE SUN AND THE HOLY FIRE.



"THEN CALLING SATYAKI, HE SAID—



"WHEN KRISHNA GOT INTO HIS CHARIOT, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID—



THUS BIDDEN FAREWELL BY YUDHISHTHIRA, O MONARCH, KRISHNA SET OUT FOR THE COURT OF DHRITARASHTRA AT HASTINAPURA.

